

in the past who have adamantly supported increases in state aid believing that it was the appropriate thing to do and I think it was the appropriate thing to do. It is much like many of the decisions that I have made in my own personal business, they were the appropriate decisions at the time that I made them, but times have changed. And it seems to me that the time has come when we need to reassess as a state, as state policymakers exactly the way that we deal with our political subdivisions and, quite frankly, I agree with Senator DeCamp and Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Remmers that it is time to send the message to those political subdivisions who I don't believe have got that message yet that it is not business as usual. And I am not going to dwell on any amounts of money that they might have as reserves. I am not going to dwell on the amounts of money that they might spend within their own system and their own structure. Instead, I would like to speak about one of those unspeakable things, one of those things that we all know deep in our hearts but nobody wants to talk about and that is the structure of the very system itself. One of the reasons, and we all know it, that we have so many employees at the political subdivision level is because we have so many political subdivisions and we do it all in the name of local control and my part of the state is no exception. But it is not only rural Nebraska. Urban Nebraska is the same. As an example, in any other state practically you would not have six or seven high priced, high paid school administrators in a metropolitan area the size of Omaha. You would have one school administrator. In any other state you wouldn't have school teachers in rural Nebraska teaching a fourth of a class or a third of a class or less and be only five or six or eight tens miles apart. Now if that is the sort of a system that our people want, I guess I have finally come to the conclusion, fine, then let them pay for it. And when Senator Hannibal and a few others have said we're passing it onto somebody else, I want to remind Senator Hannibal and others that we all pay property taxes as well. I am a property taxpayer. I don't think passing on down to my local county or my local school district and saying, here it is your problem, you pay for it, is necessarily saying that I am not going to be paying it as well because I am. But what I have come to the conclusion is that the only way you will ever get substantive structural change in this crazy mixed up system that we have got is to force it and the only way to force it is to starve them to it. I know because that is what