

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...until they do away with the administrative paper pushers and, as I started to say when I closed before, our student population has reduced a third in the last 10 years, according to one of my constituents, and he has been unable to find out from the school board how many of the administrative staff they have eliminated in those 10 years. And he tells me if I ask them, they will promise to get you the information, but he says it will be months if they get it at all because he has never been able to get it. With that, I would support Senator DeCamp's amendment or resolution, but I think, by golly, we better tell them, you don't keep hitting these people with higher property taxes and spending like you do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator DeCamp, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, Mr. President, it's eminently simple. The education budget at the local schools is made up of state aid and property tax, mostly property tax. Now when we cut some of the state aid here that does nothing in terms of cutting the overall expenditure at the other end. Well, what I am suggesting is it should be because if you don't cut the expenditure at the other end, it is a true shift to property tax which, by every poll that's been taken the last two years, is the most oppressive tax in this state. So if you go out of a special session saying you cut, you don't tell the other half of the story that in cutting you simply doubled up on the most oppressive tax. It is not honest and it's not effective. So my amendment does what should be done. It tries to pass that cut on down the line. It says, school boards, it's tough times, make the cuts locally and send us back a report saying where you made them. That is all. It tries to avoid it being shifted over to property and tries to actually implement cutting at the local level. Now, let me tell you something about local government. Local government in the State of Nebraska, conservative Nebraska, Republican Nebraska; we've got a Republican Governor again, local government here is the most out of control government in the state. Nobody likes to hear it and I get people angry at me when I say it, but go and check your local numbers, statistics, get the national statistics. You are now up to second, second in the United States in the number of local employees of government per capita, per person. You rank only behind New York. Some people would say Alaska is ahead of us. I think Alaska is a special case. We are ranking second,