

Wesely's assertion that we don't want to pay taxes, we're not willing to pay our own fair share, and that there is not a proposal to provide for reimbursement for those lost taxes. My next amendment provides that. And so there is a part of it that I don't like that is in the Governor's proposal, and that is the energy tax. But I do have a depreciation surcharge in that amendment, which I also do not like but am willing to accept. And so the charge that I'm trying to...I am one of those people who may not want to pay their own fair share, I believe, is unfounded. In regard to the amendment, though, the thing that disturbs me is that if nothing is done, then everything comes back on, we don't have control of that. So I don't believe that is the way to operate. So what I'm trying to do is remove that provision so it does take action by this Legislature to put those things back on. Now the people that I hear arguing against my amendment basically, at my understanding, would like to put everything back on and get into this property tax situation deeper than we have been in the past. And it's my philosophical belief that property taxes are outmoded, that we need to look at other forms of taxation to raise the needed fees, and that's what we're struggling to do.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Before we go to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of Senator Robinson. There are 55 fourth graders from Arbor Park Middle School in Blair, Nebraska and their teachers. They are in the south balcony. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Senator Schmit. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I have several things and I guess it's our turn, whenever you get your chance to speak today, to try to talk about this system a little bit. One of the things I wanted to talk with Senator Hall, and I don't want to catch Senator Hall off guard, so I'll ask him a question, if I have some time towards the end. If you find your section of the Constitution, I want to talk to you about Section 1 a little bit. One of the things that, from my experience as a county attorney, has been the personal property tax system is a flawed system. And so many things in here this afternoon that have been talked about is that the system...it's an option. Well, I'll tell you the personal property tax system is not a good option. Whether you want to put it all back on, so you can tax other people, the system of taxing personal property itself is not good. And it's not good