

a problem that arose from exemptions that we have had over the years for business property, for agricultural property, and to suggest that the average citizen in the State of Nebraska ought to pick this up through his or her property...or sales taxes and his or her income taxes is simply we are not being responsible legislators if we adopt this approach. I would urge your opposition to the Schellpeper amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: I will pass.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Crosby, did you wish to address this amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do because I mentioned a few minutes ago that no one wanted to talk about the income tax and sales tax. The sales tax, in particular, I still think is more equitable because more people pay it, but I understand what Senator Hall is saying. I am not against business paying taxes. They do pay taxes right now, but when you look at a business, a business is there and works at trying to make a profit. So if you continue to add the taxes to business, then that hurts the person that is working for the business and it hurts the business that is trying to make the profit. That is a fairly simple way of explaining how I feel about business. We like to bash business. We like to make it look like a big ogre, but whom do you go to first when you need a donation? You go to business. Whom do you go to first when you need some help in trying to promote some project? Even in government, quite often you organize business leaders to help you do that. So I think I'd like to get it on a different plane of conversation today or discussion and get away from that feeling that business is the big bad villain all the time. I don't feel that way at all, but on this particular amendment, the one thing I don't like is that \$45,000 bracket. These days, \$45,000 for a married couple is not very much money, especially if you have a child or two or three or even more, because rent, house payment, whatever you call it, food, quite often people call their house payment rent, so food, clothing, transportation, in Nebraska, you know, almost everyone, families, the average family has two cars. It is almost impossible to get there from here in Nebraska except in a car. We don't have that much public transportation, even in Lincoln and Omaha. You have to have a certain schedule that you are on