

property that are absolutely necessary for us to make a living. I would suggest that a tax on an individual's net worth would be much more fair than the current property tax system we're now using.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Schmit.

**SENATOR SCHMIT:** Well, I'll tell you what, folks, I wasn't even going to speak on this amendment. Been so many nice things said about it but people won't vote for it that I thought possibly if I got up and spoke against it that it might possibly pass. I'm not going to take the time to ask Senator Elmer to answer this question but, Senator Elmer, I'm going to throw it out there anyway. If you have a negative net worth then would you get a check from the government? You know, there are so many people that have so many good ideas. One time in a debate like this, after a serious discussion of issues, walking off the floor, and I don't like to quote reporters because I don't like to put the onus on them that I might think that what they said meant anything, but Eddie Howard said one time that if the Lord hadn't meant for sheep to be shorn, he wouldn't have given them fleece. And what we have done is to have shorn the taxpayer time, after time, after time but the fleece kept coming back. Now the bill which the Governor has proposed to you and which we are apparently going to give to him will not take the fleece off the animal, it will take the hide off and when you take the hide off the animal dies. My good friend, Governor Nelson, is just setting the stage for a single term as Governor. Way back in the days when Nobby Tiemann proposed the sales tax and income tax and took the full credit for it, he set the stage. Governor Nelson ought to take a little lesson from the master that sat on that seat ever since I have been here, Jim Exon. Jim Exon would have said, that Republican dominated Legislature is going to craft a tax plan and your Governor will see to it that it is fair to you or he will veto, veto, veto until it is fair. But you wouldn't have found Governor Exon prescribing the formula by which taxes would be put out. And this Governor has chosen to inject himself into the system and provide leadership. Let me tell you, if, in fact, we gave the Governor the exact program he wanted, it would lead him right out of the office and, as a Republican, maybe he ought to do that. I want to just say this, that the bill that Senator Rogers and I have put together does some things which need to be done but we have on this floor 49 persons who don't like property taxes but who wouldn't...but of that 49, 40 of them wouldn't vote for the amendment. We have