

SENATOR SCHMIT: That's the Schmit plan. That's not their plan.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, I don't know if that's the Schmit plan or not but they have gone ahead and espoused your point of view, Senator Schmit, which is to seek legislative authorization for something called simulcasting. And they also are seeking the public's approval of a constitutional amendment for simulcasting. If those particular features do pass, they believe, based on the experience of other tracks, that, in fact, the parimutuel handle at Ak-Sar-Ben, as well as Fonner Park and Lincoln and so on, will increase quite dramatically over the years.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I believe it will also, Senator Johnson. I think it might be preferable. It might not be a bad idea for us to leave the tax structure in place and just make a direct appropriation to pay off their capital construction problem and leave the tax structure in place, because we know once a tax program is removed it becomes extremely difficult to reinstate it. You have listed many times various exemptions for agriculture and I have suffered some while you list those. But the point is that if you take the tax off, I doubt very much that it will be reinstated...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...in 1990. I also think it might be...it might cause a tendency towards, oh, perhaps a little casualness towards the spending processes. For example, I am sure there were good years in the past when we could have probably laid away a little sum, but we didn't do it. It's kind of interesting, visiting with several members of the body here this morning, and I think it's probably all right, but nonetheless there are many businesses, many farmers, many individuals who have lost money not just last year but for a good many years. Is there any intention on the part of the Revenue Committee to expand this proposal, Senator Johnson, for those businessmen and individuals and farmers who have lost money so that they might also be relieved of some of their expenses? And the packing plants, Bernice says.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Schmit, I have always distinguished a nonprofit agricultural society from profit-making businesses. As you know, on the bottom line Ak-Sar-Ben is a nonprofit society.