

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am extremely sorry that LB 524 did not come to the floor. I think that it would have been a better proposal. It would have met head on the issue and would have solved many of the inequities that we are going to continue to perpetuate under this proposal. In the absence of that bill I ask you again to vote against LB 284 and support the proposed amendments which I have offered.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I do respectfully and regretfully oppose the Schmit amendment. As you know the Schmit amendment is the other alternative that we talked about here today and it would strip and eliminate what you have just done by your vote ten or fifteen minutes ago. Since Senator Schmit raised the question of how I would explain to my people how he is going to defend me up there, I'll explain here to my people what I am doing. My people never got that money that you are talking about that they are going to lose and your people never got it and nobody else in the room ever got it. In fact, they haven't gotten anything yet. In fact, the proposal that we were going to give them whatever we were going to give them was unconstitutional. Now how did we get to 882? How did we get to those anticipated amounts? In truth there is some question as to how accurate even those would have been. I think that every member of the legislature knows it, because it occurred as everybody remembers as a result of kind of a freakish condition. What was that freakish condition? One day the tax commissioner, the former tax commissioner, Bill Peters, decided that he was going to raise some personal property to actual value. So some farm tractors and other equipment were raised to actual value or way more than actual value in many cases, which prompted an outcry, an outrage, some inventory that had been previously valued at fractions of its true amounts were increased and as a result we had the massive organized lobbying effort and effort in here to repeal the personal property taxes. But, the figures that we based our 882 distribution, as everyone well knows, were in some cases exorbitantly high relative to the average of other counties and in some cases incredibly low. The only real absolute standard, if you want to have a standard, as to what should be paid out is property. Why do I say that? Because there is a direct relationship between personal property and the real estate. Now that is true in Nebraska or any other state in the United States and it has been documented and shown in one study after another. So, if the truth were really absolutely known, the true amounts that people should probably be receiving, even if we had a personal property tax today, would be almost exactly proportional to what you are going to get under a valuation formula. I remind you again it was the rural senators that felt we had to hold on to our valuation. I have