

Remember, in the late seventies and early eighties, agriculture land skyrocketed. Then we hit the farm crisis and it came down, came down by quite a little. In fact, some parcels came down as high as 50 percent, others higher than that. But I feel that after we got the earning capacity going, that it turned out a fairly good way to value ag land, probably isn't perfect but I don't think we'll ever see a perfect way. Now land prices are going up again and so that means that the assessors are going to have to place a higher value on agriculture land. We did advance LB 361 a few days ago and now we are here with LR 2 and I think and I believe that these two bills need to go hand in hand. One is a short-term solution. LR 2 is perhaps a longer term solution because LR 2 will not become...not come before the voters before 1991. And so I think this is the right way to go. Most of the farm groups are supporting both of these bills and I believe that when it's put before the voters, I believe that they, too, will support it as they did in 1934. I said this would come before the voters in 1991, I believe it's supposed to be 1990. So I want to correct that. But I believe this is the right way to go. I don't believe there is any other solution and so I would encourage you this morning to support LR 2.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper. (Gavel.) Let's hold the conversation down, please, so we can hear Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, you're up.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I don't know if that's a good sign or a bad sign that Senator Moore defers to me. It's a bad sign he didn't give me his time. But anyway I have listened with interest this morning to the comments and I really don't disagree with much of what has been said. I have to say this that I really commend Senator Rod Johnson and many other legislators who have worked diligently in attempting to find a solution to this problem. I wish that I were more relaxed with the kind of a solution that we have proposed here before us today. I have several concerns and I think, as I read the transcript, because I was not present when LB 361 was debated, I read the transcript and then I read some of the testimony on LR 2CA and I am concerned, I guess, that someone speaks in terms of 361 being a temporary solution. I am concerned that someone says that this will allow us the flexibility that we need to provide for the valuation in a manner which is, plain language, favorable to agriculture. Senator Rod Johnson, I believe, said that agricultural land at the present time is valued within 93 percent of what is termed