

that in mind when some of those property tax relief bills are dealt with as priority bills in the near future. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Chambers and Senator Abboud. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I have always contended that farmland, agricultural land is valued much closer to market value than has been reported by the press and sometimes by our own individuals of state government. We discovered, after years of being told that agricultural land was valued at only half of market value, that someone had conveniently forgot to add in the value of the improvements on that land, which then brought it up to 79 percent. I have pointed out to you already the dramatic fluctuation in the value of farmland, according to market. It does not necessarily mean that it is really worth that much or is not worth that much. I have a series of letters here from county assessors who have told me that when they use the market procedure the general rule is that no more than one-half of the sales in a county are used to determine market value and in some cases as little as five or six or seven percent. Now, I ask you, in the name of all that is fair and equitable, how do you take five or six or 10 percent of the sales of farmland in a county and extrapolate that to where you can determine the fair market value of all of the land within the county? No one can do that, although we have had a really good system, I think, over the years. I think the county assessors, before everyone got involved in it, was doing a pretty good job. Now we do have a problem with the court, ladies and gentlemen, and I contend that we will still have a problem with the court. We're going to have that problem with the court if you take and advance LR 2CA. I would like to ask a very quick question of Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Rod Johnson or (interruption).

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson, would you respond, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Should not you strike the words "uniform and proportionate" on page 3, line 9, if, in fact, you are going to advance this constitutional amendment?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, Senator, I was not paying attention to your comments, but to respond I would just have to say that I don't know if that's the right way to go or not. I guess that's