

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: It's possible, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could it lead, and could it help lead to the demise of some of those towns?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, I think the overall economy will decide whether a small town will survive or not. I don't know if taxes necessarily will lead to the actual demise of the community.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I'm not sure of the answer to that last question either. But I can see that there are members of the Legislature from the City of Omaha and maybe from the City of Lincoln who equate agricultural with rural, and that is not the case. So considerable thought should be given to what the vote will be on LR 2CA, regardless of how it turns out to be amended. I'm not addressing Senator Johnson's amendment at all,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because apparently it is needed to have the amendment at least as technically correct to achieve the desired purpose as possible. But as far as what the amendment seeks to do, even though the language of the amendment does not say that, I'm not certain that it's a wise policy. And if the day did arise when...or arrive when there were more urban senators, whether from the cities of Lincoln and Omaha, or taken in connection with senators from North Platte and Grand Island, whose interests would not seem to parallel those of the agricultural interests, and therefore, they would raise the assessed valuation of agricultural land and the amendment could have an opposite effect to that which is intended by those who are offering the amendment now. I don't think it's a wise position.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I just want to support the clarifying amendment offered by Senator Johnson. I think it's necessary. I think one of the risks we run, if we...as we work to put this on the ballot is it does not accomplish what we want to do. And I think Senator Johnson's amendment will clarify exactly what we're after so we don't run into the problem that we had prior to this when we were unclear in what