

doing the right thing, and then move forward.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Rod Johnson, Senator Schmit is announcing that he has some guests in our north balcony, 36 fourth graders from David City with their teacher. They are from St. Mary's School. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We are glad to have you with us. Discussion on the Wesely motion to bracket. Senator Rod Johnson, Senator Schmit on deck.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, these last minute pleas to not pass LR 2 are not to be or are not unexpected. I expected this to come. It happened to me last year with LR 249 which was a similar piece of legislation that dealt with ag land valuation, so I feel as if this is a third round of debate which I fully expected. One of the problems that we ran into last year, of course, was that I think a lot of people were looking for alternative ideas besides the constitutional amendment to address this problem. They were looking for an answer, and that answer was supposed to be somehow found out by the Revenue Committee during the interim period, or it was supposed to come from us as individuals. No alternative ideas that are workable that I know of have come forward that provide what I consider to be a long-term solution to the problem of ag land valuations. Delay cost us, quite frankly, an opportunity to put this issue on the ballot in 1988. I wish we would have done that last year. I think a number of you who are now voting for LR 2 have come to me or to others and said, hey, you know, I made a mistake. We probably should have voted for LR 249. I think time was right to deal with that problem. We had a chance in the regular session last year to deal with this problem. We chose not to do it. We had a chance in a plea that was brought to you by Senator Landis, Senator Moore, and myself to have a special session. It was brought to you in August. It was rejected by the body again, and now we sit on Final Reading with LR 2, and we are told that this is not the solution, that there has got to be some other better idea, a more equitable idea, an idea that no one really knows what that might constitute at this point, but I, personally, suggest that we move on with the issue. Now there are other amendments filed here that we will take up individually. The only objection I have to some of those amendments, quite honestly, is that they were brought to me at 8:35 this morning and said here is my