

or interpretation, but his language, like all the other language, allows for all of those things. The time bomb that everybody is trying to avoid is incorporated in the language of the amendatory language that Senator Rod Johnson is offering. As Senator Schmit pointed out, the one who controls the right to define controls the whole battlefield, but there is other language. On page 2, the Legislature is allowed to provide for a method of taxing agricultural land and horticultural land which results in values which are not uniform and proportionate with all other tangible property and franchises. So Senator Schmit's amendment is adopted, you enact this...you put it before the public. They vote on it. It becomes a part of the Constitution. When things with reference to real estate change and the value of farmland changes, whether up or down, here is what I will do, Senator Schmit, based on the language of the Constitution. I will offer a bill to say that agricultural land and horticultural land shall be valued at 150 percent of the value of commercial property or residential property or 150 percent of its market value or 150 percent of the value of this land when it is based on its income earning potential. That can be done under this law. As long as you put language in the Constitution that allows this land to be valued and taxed in a way that is different from and not proportionate to other land, then you haven't done anything. Nothing is being done with this language at all. That is one reason I am trying to stay out of the discussion, but I want my remarks to be in the record. Now that that has soaked in, I am going to say one other thing. There is always going to be a rural and urban split because there are urban centers located in agricultural parts of the state, and I say again, this body and other Legislatures do not recognize the distinction between rural and agricultural. There are urban areas in agricultural areas whose interests are different from those of the agricultural areas of which they are a part. Those with the agricultural interests could control that particular area and do things that are detrimental to the urban centers. There is a tendency to think of the term "urban" as applying to large, relatively speaking, cities like Omaha, Lincoln, North Platte, Grand Island, and so forth, but that is not the only kind of areas that the term "urban" would apply to. So with all of the efforts being put forth here today, I think you are going to wind up dealing with a law or a piece of language that you would have if you put a snake's tail in its mouth. As long as you go around the body of the snake, you are never going to reach the end, never going to reach the beginning, because what you have described is a