

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, I look at this third point that I was going to make and it really was sort of self-serving. There's been sort of a... On the floor the last couple of years Senator Schmit has been a constant critic of the ag land valuation issues. And there has been a repetitive theme that he's developed that, you know, if this issue was in other people's hands it would have been better managed. If we didn't have young pup lawyers running around giving opinions, we'd be doing better here. If the Revenue Committee hadn't taken the tack they did, we'd be better off. If a different set of language had been chosen, we'd be better off than we are today. A series of hypotheticals that really, if you listen to the theme, it seems to say that the leadership on these issues has excluded Senator Schmit, and they've erred, and if we'd gone back and listened a little more wisely, we wouldn't be in the situation that we are today. The phrase that he used this last time was have we done anything right. Oddly enough I guess that's the point I want to talk about, just briefly. We have done something right here. I don't think anybody anticipated what the Supreme Court was going to do following Amendment 4. I didn't, frankly, I don't think anybody else did. As a matter of fact, Vard Johnson argued to the Supreme Court that the court had misread what the Legislature thought was going to happen. That one was, I don't think, very predictable. But following the Amendment 4 decisions, and the passage of Amendment 4, we passed an earnings capacity method. The earnings capacity method has brought better equalization between counties, better equalization between types of farmland, it's brought, for the first time that I know of, agreement between farm groups and county officials and county assessors as to what reasonable standards are out there. And that, by the way, has taken some doing, because not all those people believed in the notion when it began. Oddly enough, if there was a bill in the Revenue Committee that was individually authored by one of the members of the body, prior to the development of the task force's work, it would have been Senator Schmit's bill. Senator Schmit's bill had an income-stream approach in it following the passage of Amendment 4. Bruce Johnson, I think, was the backing academic support for that notion, and he served on the task force and with some changes that wound up being the way that we did the business.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: My guess is that if the names on certain of the