

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to support the committee amendments. This, LB 1, the original bill was drafted in a hurry and we didn't think that it explained some things very well. And so along with the help of the Tax Commissioner and with the Revenue Committee and the Revenue Committee counsel, we drafted these amendments to the bill. There was one part of the bill that I was interested in, and that was on the center pivots system, and we also clarified in there that if that center pivot is used for agricultural purposes only, the reason we did this, we didn't think that it was the intent of the Tax Commissioner or of the Revenue Committee to exempt those underground watering systems like for that is on your lawn and to those property owners. And so I would ask you to support the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senator Chambers and Senator Schmit.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, and members, my comments will be brief because Senator Hefner has covered an aspect of the bill that I was concerned with and brought up original points that I thought made the bill suspect, in my mind, as it related to agriculture and, in particular, the center pivot irrigation equipment that potentially could be taxed. We were called back in special session here to maintain a certain amount of status quo in our tax structure. That did not include adding additional items onto the tax rolls, such as irrigation equipment, and I want to thank Senator Hall and the Revenue Committee for their adoption of an amendment that we presented to the committee to clarify this point, and they have done so, and so I have no problem with the committee amendments as written.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I'd like to begin what I have to say with a quote, and it is this. "What good fortune for those in power that people do not think." That quote is from Adolf Hitler, and he is one who certainly should know. I would paraphrase that to change the last word "think" to "know". "What good fortune for those in power that people do not know.", especially when they are members of the Legislature. I doubt that there is anybody on this floor who can explain what these amendments mean. Senator