

continue. That would be a decision that I would think that ought to be a logical conclusion of the committee, and if the Legislature approved of it, fine. What I am saying is that over the years, over the years, we have added billions of dollars to the tax exempt real property, and the definition of what is tax exempt continues to be more broad. I would expect, and this is not aimed at this entity, but I would expect that the property owned by the Whooping Crane Trust Fund is exempt...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...from taxation. Ladies and gentlemen, I think they have got 10 or 15 million dollars in the fund and we have only got a 150 whoopers. If they can't afford to pay tax on their real property, who in the State of Nebraska can? I would suggest there are other entities out there that are similar. It is also true that we have greatly expanded what is religious activity today. I am not critical of it, but when we originally studied those intentions of the constitutional exemptions, it was pretty obvious that we were exempting the church, maybe the parsonage, and that was about it, but today we have broadened our activities considerably. And the church I belong to owns a lot of property, and some of it is product producing and probably they pay tax on it, some of it is not. Let all of those exemptions, Senators, come before the committee, come before this body, and be debated at length, and once you have done that, I think you will agree that perhaps this is a better solution than what you would think. Someone sent me a message that the State of Texas thinks they have \$45 billion of this type of property. One of my principal concerns here, ladies and gentlemen, is the fact that you can propose something of this nature and get very little debate on the floor. You get very little debate or argument from the committee. You get very little debate from your fellow senators. It is almost as if you have a closed mind. You say we are not going to look at this, Schmit has got another crazy idea again. It is not going to work. We have committed ourselves to LB 1, LB 2, LB 7, we are going to go. Ladies and gentlemen, bear in mind again the admonition of former Governor Thone. I think it might be worth remembering. One more thing, as long as we are talking about personal property, Senator Jim Exon, and I often quote Senator Jim Exon, but Senator Jim Exon raised a point, which I think is a valid one. He said in reference to LB 775, which many people supported, how do you exempt from taxation a jet airplane that is owned by one