

offered by Senator Elmer, Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just have a question for Senator Elmer, and I have to apologize to him because I'm sure in some of his mailings and such he has covered this, but I need a little better explanation particularly when you made reference to the fact that we are going to define real property in two categories, nondepreciable and depreciable, and we're going to eliminate the tax on personal property and it is going to be revenue neutral. What happens under your scheme to...in the small business I work for we pay a personal property tax on our personal computer, our furniture, our typewriter, those types of things. That's currently classified as personal property. We pay business equipment personal property, we pay property tax on that each year, what is going to happen to that?

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Withem, those particular items that you mention are clearly very portable, can be moved from business to business, just like your household goods. If you were going to move...

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, what happens to them then?

SENATOR ELMER: They are nontaxable.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, then how is your proposal fiscally neutral then if we're removing those items from the other tax rolls?

SENATOR ELMER: The way that it works out, according to the fiscal office and talking to many of my assessors, and they agree, the way the personal property tax is now reported and assessed, in my particular business I go into the county assessor. I tell them what personal property I have that I think I can get away with. I tell them how much I think it is worth at the lowest figure I can give. They put it in the file and I pay tax on that. Under this scheme, it is real property. The assessor goes out, he looks at the building and he writes down the size of the building and how many rooms are in it and at the same time he writes down, in the case of an automobile dealer, for example, the front-end machines, the hoists, the compressors and all of those various things and puts it on the list and then...(interruption)

SENATOR WITHEM: And then, because they are attached then they