

Senator Elmer at that time and there were, I think, points similar to the ones that were brought out here on the floor today that we talked about as well. It is an alternative approach to the personal property tax situation that we find ourselves dealing with. It is a broader view of the overall problem, dividing basically the property into two classes, that of depreciable and nondepreciable. The use of those terms, I think, has a bit of a problem for me in that they are traditionally used in other ways and they have other definitions and uses, commonly, and that that in itself is one of the first problems that I see with the legislation. But I think what it does do is it does move us in the direction and does force us to look at the classification of property as a way to deal with this problem, and I think the ultimate solution that we will find ourselves in when we correct this situation, should we choose to do that, will be through a classification process and toward that end the amendment that Senator Elmer offers is one that moves in that direction. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senators Elmer and Weihing.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I put my light on because I had two questions. Senator Hefner's remarks brought a third one to mind. First two are primarily factual sort of understanding questions, third one I'll get into in a second. I think the first one might have been covered in your dialogue with Senator Nelson, just to make sure I understand. I was concerned when I read the 775 exemptions in your bill. Basically, those are placed there for clarification purposes to continue existing 775 sorts of exemptions. This does not add any new exemptions beyond what are currently there in statute.

SENATOR ELMER: That is exactly right. It's just a hold harmless type of a thing.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, got that. I want to get to the other two points and then make a statement. Working from your based on currently available assessments data sheet from the fiscal analyst's office, I now understand the contention that you're making that passage of this bill will provide more accurate assessments and we will, hopefully, be recovering through that process what will be lost through the, as you call it, the liar tax, personal property tax exemptions that will be added by passage of this. Where in your bill do we provide for this