

February 8, 1991 LB 404

that seemed to be the formula that they were most in support of. So I guess I would say don't lose sight of the fact that the real battle is still ahead of us on this issue.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. I will now recognize Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Kristensen. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I think it has been said a number of times and I'm going to say it again. Just visiting with Senator Will, one of the newest members here and he raised an issue, I understand, in Revenue Committee which no one likes to talk about, but I can assure you that all is not beer and pretzels or peace and harmony on this floor relative to the ag land issue. As one of the few rural legislators who did not support Amendment 1, I'm going to remind my colleagues and my constituents that the day will come when we are going to rue the day and I'm going to tell you why, because there is enough chicanery that can take place on this floor given the requirement of equal and proportionate valuations. But we've got Amendment 1, but Amendment 1 does not say that ag land shall be valued at less than market value or at less than its income earning capacity. It says it may be valued differently and some day when the City of Lincoln is faced with a \$2 billion bond issue because they have to drill a new well field because there are contaminants in the present well field, or because Omaha MUD faces the same problem, some aspiring young legislator is going to rise on this floor and say, wait a minute, the reason for that pollution is because you've got all those farmers out there like old man Schmit who are irrigating land and putting on a lot of fertilizer and they are feeding cattle and hauling out the manure and that's causing nitrates in the water. And so somehow we ought to discourage that and so, therefore, I move that we double the valuation of land over the market value. And do you know what? You haven't got this many farmers on the floor today. Give us five or ten years and what are you going to have? It is going to sound a lot more reasonable when Senator Will leads that parade in 10 years than it does today and he's got...he will have had the record behind him where he raised the caution flag. And so, ladies and gentlemen, I don't know how many years ago I wrote to my farm organization friends and to my colleagues and said, no one really on this floor wants to be unfair. I really don't believe so but, given the information you have, given the information you have, you try to arrive at the best possible solution. Fred