

February 21, 1991 LB 404

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: How much more time, how much time do you have left, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BAACK: Three minutes.

SENATOR LYNCH: A procedural question or problem, one I'd ask and I'll answer it myself is, I'm not sure how we were going to go about establishing what values we could establish for farmland, ag land purposes and when that would go into effect. I assume that if we change the law as it applied to ag land values we'd either have to be in session or call a special session, but I'm not quite sure and I don't know of any activity now going on that would provide what those values should be. Interesting question. What happens if we don't do it this year then and then we wait until next year? Does that mean next year we'll introduce another 404 or 405 to freeze the '90 values in '92 until we get it done? And how fair would that be to homeowners? Senator Wehrbein mentioned that the possibility exists that the values for ag land would go up 14 percent this year and that could put them at 86 percent. I'm using your numbers, Roger, so I'm not quite sure, but that means that ag land values are now at 72 percent. Do you want to walk down the street with me to some of my neighbors that have 14 and \$15,000 houses that are valued at \$20,000? How fair is that to these poor folks? Not at all. They're not at 72 percent now and you want to freeze that now so they can continue the same kind of difference without even determining how it's going to be done legally? And a lot of these people voted for this because they thought it was fair. That's absolutely unfair. Ag land values now should be adjusted, I agree. They are business so I guess if you're in business in Nebraska you get a break, but think about that homeowner in my district and a lot of yours and the homes that are probably overvalued and probably at 100 percent and over 100 percent in your small towns as well as your big ones have to be considered. And at the present time if, in fact, ag land values are at 72 percent, and I'll accept whoever said that's word for it...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...then they are already low enough. You really don't need this at all. What we can do is a couple of things.