

setting the stage for what will happen later on in the bill and we are saying, yes, we're going to take all the tax off personal property but we're going to have this one little exception, which then, of course, is the crowbar under the door to make for other exemptions. I think it is important that we adopt this amendment though for another purpose and that is what is the purpose, ladies and gentlemen, of this Legislature taking to the people a constitutional amendment for their approval? Drafted by our own people here who are skilled, looked at carefully by the 49 members of this body and their various staff people, perused with great detail...by great detail by the lobbyists to make sure that their particular little ox is not being gored, and then when the people take a look at it and the people adopt the amendment and we come back and implement the amendment through statute and the court says, no, you can't do that, you didn't do it right. One of the reasons we are here today is that this court disagrees, at least in part, with previous courts. Previous courts have said what we had done was all right and this court says no. Ladies and gentlemen, if, in fact, we send the bill and again maybe, maybe God will smile upon us and there will not be the bill in the original form going to the Governor, but if we send that bill to the Governor and he signs it and the court says it's okay, then we have struck one blow for the independence of this body. I still say it is this body's responsibility to draft the statutes and particular the tax statutes under which we operate. It is not the responsibility of the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court wants to be involved, there's a way they can do that. They can resign their esteemed positions and I respect all of them. They can pay a \$120 filing fee and they can sit here and they can draft and have fun to their heart's content. But they are not supposed to draft detail by detail the tax structure of this state. It is the citizens of this Legislature who need to answer to the people and we have done so time and time again. What is frightening to me is that this bill, as proposed by the Governor, should not even be here. We had about an hour hearing yesterday. Some people came in, voiced their concerns, and the bill is on the floor, a bill which has impact upon a 1,600,000 people, every business, every industry, every personal income, every home, every farm, and we act as if it's a casual as you were. It is not and we should not do it. As Senator Rod Johnson has said, every temporary plan becomes permanent. And any farmer in this place who votes for a reimposition of the tax upon personal property under the assumption that we will meet sometime in the future and accept the mandate of the 3-R