

now we're trying to amend it to justify what we've done.

SENATOR MOORE: But what you said was that we're going from a vote of the people to sanctity of exemptions on the 25 votes, and really with the constitutional amendment we're just going to continue that, the 25 votes, not really change it.

SENATOR LINDSAY: No, what we're going to do...as you know the goal is to preserve the real estate tax base in this constitutional amendment because what we've done is by ignoring that we've done the only other option and that is to exempt everything. And its a matter of time now before, because of what we've done for the last 20 years, we will have exempted everything. But to pick out certain things so that we ignore the uniformity provision, that does...we have to amend the Constitution. We haven't done it, but that doesn't mean we're right.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, but as far as the policy this body has made, bad or good, and you can argue both sides, the exemptions that we have made a policy decision on...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...the last 20 years, have been enacted by a 25 vote margin in this body as opposed to a vote of the people in the state.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Those...as I mentioned, I think the constitutionality, we've seen what's happening with that. Because of the fact that we've tried to do it with 25 votes, rather than doing it the way we're supposed to do it, we have jeopardized our entire property tax system.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, Senator Lindsay, I rise to oppose Senator Lindsay's amendment. I think particularly with Senator Warner's amendment we just adopted, we say we're going to review these issues every 10 years. I think that's certainly good. And obviously with Senator Lindsay's amendment, not only do you review them in 10 years, you put the burden on any one group to get 30 votes, and you know sometimes that's very difficult to do. Sometimes people with some very ulterior motives can vote no on that and I just think it would make it very difficult and unwise for many members of this Legislature to vote for this particular amendment, but I think it really is punitive to