

hurting the truckers, we're talking about hurting the real estate business. But let's consider our number one industry, agriculture. We certainly don't want to hurt them. And then we talk about hurting the railroads. Well, I submit to you that the railroads are big enough that they'll take care of themselves. And the railroads are not going to be paying any more property taxes, any more personal property taxes, because they have the 4-R Act on the federal level to protect them. So I don't think that if we go with the 3-R proposal we'll get them to pay any personal property taxes, it's just that simple. So I would urge you to oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Kristensen?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Hefner certainly stands up and makes those compelling speeches, and I want to... I don't want to dilute what he said, but I want to redirect what I think this amendment really does. This amendment does not... is not a pro agriculture, or an anti agriculture issue or amendment, that's not the purpose of this amendment. Read the amendment and what it talks about is vehicles, that's pickups, trucks, cars, all of those items. The problem here is that you're taking the income tax system and you're causing problems in the income tax system, not by just raising the rates, because raising the rates is an acceptable policy provision. If we want to raise more income, you raise the income or the sales tax rate. But you don't mess around with the system that we have established of legitimate deductions for depreciation on motor vehicles, on trucks, on semis, on real estate. That real estate is not just real estate that sits in the eastern end of the state, that's real estate all over the state. And Senator Nelson knows, and she's been very legitimate and has talked about land levelers and those sorts of very expensive items, that if you have a couple of them it isn't hard, under rapid depreciation, to get there. My purpose in bringing this amendment is very simple. Don't pervert, don't make a shambles of the income tax system in our zeal to raise some money to solve the personal property tax crisis. We ought to address and solve the personal property tax crisis. If we want to do that through raised sales and income taxes, then let's do that as a body, raise those rates. But I've got a system of state income tax that we're now taking away legitimate expenditures and expenses of doing those items in the