

February 24, 1992 LB 1120

SENATOR WARNER: ...the solution two years from now and I would urge you to reject this proposed amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I was not going to speak on this amendment or this bill because I had my day in court last Thursday. But all due respect to agriculture, I...and I was home over this weekend too, I was home this weekend and I got one phone call from a farmer and was in support of a sales and income tax, a sales and income tax, that's the only fair tax there was, he said. And I asked him if he knew about the Supreme Court ruling of MAPCO. He did not. And so I had to go back from step one clear down to where we are today and he finally ended by saying, well, I'm glad I called, at least I learned something. I did have town hall meetings throughout my district last year and I had a big one in December just before the session started this year. And I have farmers come up to me and say...and they're really hurting, some of them are really hurting, and they would come up to me and say, I chose to be a farmer because my father was a farmer and my grandfather was a farmer and I did not go to college, I chose not to go to college because I wanted to be a farmer. And I lost this big amount of money, and he told me how much the money that he lost and it was monumental. He said I went to the bank to get a loan, and he said the bank just told me, why don't you go to town and get a job? And he said, I have no skills, I have a family to support and a debt to pay off and I have no skills, all I can do is get a minimum wage paying job and there are none of those. So they really are hurting. Some of them say, shall I sell out this year? What shall I do? They come to me and they say, why don't you settle something down there? Why are you fooling around down there? Why don't something be done? I have to tell them that there is no consensus here and that's why nothing is being done. And, as I say, I was home over the weekend and I got one phone call. However, this morning I did get a steady volume of phone calls. It appears the Farmers Union is doing an expert job of recruiting people to say, call your senator and say vote for the sales and income tax increase, it's really going to save you. And I hesitate to do that because I try to tell them that I would like to do that but it would fail on the ballot and we would be back to square one, everything would go back on the tax rolls and I would have to reecho Senator Warner's everything that he has said. And as for somebody saying sales tax is a fair tax, it is not a fair tax.