

without a distribution problem that looms in any kind of scheme or any kind of plan that has the state raise the revenue as opposed to the local entity? How do we do that, and then also have to some extent less reliance, when it is all over, on property taxes? That is what this amendment does is it says, let's put the old system into place, let's change the Constitution to allow us to do that, if we can. I know we can't amend the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, notwithstanding, but it is the only thing that is left out of LR 219CA, in terms of the way it is currently drafted. Let's take a look at a few sales tax exemptions, a very, very few, \$9 million worth, the vast majority of that, over half, right at half, coming out of ag. They need to ante up in this proposal. Then the depreciation add-back, it is business and ag. It is the centrally assessed companies, to a greater extent than probably any other, but it treats every property alike. It raises some money that allows us to offset the cost of community colleges to the tune of \$40 million, so that there is a less reliance, when it is all said and done, on real estate taxes for purposes of funding government, which is the direction we need to be heading. I would urge adoption of the amendment. I think it clearly is as least disruptive as anything that has been proposed and stands a very good chance of being endorsed by the voters at the polls, plus it moves us, as slowly as it does, which is very disturbing to me, but it moves us very, very slowly in the direction we ought to be heading, and that is less reliance on property taxes, and an examination of all the exemptions that currently exist in our tax system. I would move the adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: You have heard Senator Hall's closing. We will now vote on the amendment to the amendment offered by Senator Hall. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. A record vote has been requested. Have you all voted? Record vote has been requested, have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Record vote read. See page 984 of the Legislative Journal.) 17 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: The amendment fails.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator...may I read some items very quickly, Mr. President?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, you may, items for the record.