

is the kind of opportunity we have been given by the court. We tend to look at it as a cross. I think that no matter what happens...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...here, you are going to have trouble at the polls, and today, as someone pointed out, is February 27th and we have yet to debate the constitutional amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Next speaker is Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To address just a few comments to Senator Hall's comments, and to Senator Warner's, because I think we are now starting to talk about the substance of this issue, and what is good or bad tax policy. You know, I would submit to you and the reason why I put exemptions in there for agricultural equipment and business equipment, and those are, obviously, very general descriptive terms for what is a list of items, but the reason I did it is because, first of all, many states surrounding us do it. We already do it in LB 775 with business equipment, and LB 270 with business equipment, and the reason we did that in 270 and 775 is because when you tax the sale of an item that you use to produce goods, that has an economic disincentive, and that is why we did it in 775, and that is why we put those exemptions into 270, and that was the reason why we did it. So I think there is an economic justification. And, secondarily, the...secondarily, the tax in LB 1063 is a personal property tax. So the item of equipment that is purchased, whether it be farm or business, is taxed at the point of sale, and then it is taxed again as personal property. So, in effect, we are taxing twice or even three times those same items of machinery and equipment that are used to produce jobs, and are used to produce goods that are manufactured in Nebraska, not goods that are manufactured somewhere else and brought into the State of Nebraska. So I think there is a philosophical reason why we look at these kinds of exemptions, especially when in LB 1063, and I think it is good policy, where we do maintain our personal property tax base. Remember, also, that in LB 1063 we are taxing agricultural equipment that we have not taxed for 20 years. So even though it is an existing tax, even though it is an existing tax, it is a tax that has not been levied on agriculture for 20 years. So that is, I believe, another justification for