

people. It has no basis, whatsoever, there is no basis whatsoever to say that it constitutes a fair and equitable method of taxation. Senator Hefner is trying to say, at least, if we have three identical animals, they ought to all be treated identically taxwise, and that makes sense to me. I would suggest that in the event the 3-R proposal passes, which I hope it does not, it will not take very long, first of all, of course, for the railroads to let themselves out, we know that will happen, secondly, to be followed by pipelines and by telephone lines. Third or fourth will be the first farmer who has to tax his depreciable livestock or the depreciable tractor when another similar or identical item is not taxed, and I think that notwithstanding the best well intentioned efforts of this Legislature to find some system to raise a little bit of money, if that court is as consistent and as conservative and as predictable as they have been in the past, it will promptly throw out the 3-R Committee proposal. I do not know, I think that Senator Hefner is sincere. I think that the fact that he tries to improve the bill does not necessarily make him required that he support the bill. I would hope that there will be other amendments to this bill that might make it less odious. I do not believe any amendments can be proposed short of removal of all but the number that will make it acceptable. And as I have said before, I believe the proper role to go would be to say, nuts! If it is a question of who is going to bite the bullet, then I think we have to say, well, maybe the experiment to exempt certain classes of personal...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...property from taxation failed and, therefore, we shall return it all to the tax rolls. Ladies and gentlemen, those of you who are concerned about the homeowner can march back to your respective districts in the Cities of Omaha and Lincoln and you can correctly take credit for a substantial reduction in the tax on homes because real estate should go down then. It will not decline much in the rural areas because it is not going to make that big a difference there, but I would predict a substantial decrease in the real estate taxes in the primary and metropolitan class cities. If that is what you are looking for, then the route to go is to return all personal property to the tax rolls and I want to hear someone explain the merits of that because I can't do it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Wickersham.