

And, Madam President, new A bill, LB 1019A introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read by title for the first time. See page 1088 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Hall, you have the next amendment with a note to withdraw. Thank you. Madam President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend. Senator, I have AM 3240

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President, members, this has been a long anticipated amendment that deals with sales tax on farm machinery and equipment. It is probably the pivotal issue in a number of people's minds on whether or not they might support 1063 depending upon how we treat machinery relative to when you buy it, not simply to own it. It is my opinion that there are some things happening right now behind the scenes to address this issue and a compromise may well be worked out on this very issue. But I've got to tell you, I don't know what the rest of you have been hearing out in the country or the districts you represent, but in the district I represent and the areas that I have traveled there is a great frustration, a growing frustration that we're losing everything, that we've lost in LB 1120, that we're getting it put to us through LB 1063 and that we just simply can't win on any of these things and it just seems to me that we can improve the perception at least of LB 1063 if we do something with the sales tax on farm machinery. The real concern I guess that many of the farmers that I've talked to have said is to me, Rod, explain this to me. You're going to tax me on the sales tax when I buy the machinery, then you're going to tax me for owning it on the depreciation schedule and I just simply can't afford to do that anymore, that's just illogical to me, I just simply will not support that. I've got to tell you, quite frankly, it is very tough to go home and say that LB 1063 is something I can vote for with this kind of taxation in it. It just goes against the grain of the people I happen to represent. Now I realize not all of you represent people who own farm machinery and I remember Senator Vard Johnson one time saying we need to show political courage in addressing this issue and it's easy to have political courage when the people being affected by the courage that you're being asked to exercise are people that you don't have to represent. But in this case, I ask the body to repeal the sales tax on new and used equipment when you purchase it. That's a fairly large