

today, or this week or next year. And so, while I do not really like to suspend the...or to support the motion to suspend the rules, because I think that is probably the most difficult way to do what Senator Rod Johnson is trying to do, I think that there is another indication here that there is no really good intention on the part of this body to take the sales tax off farm equipment. I want to point out again that to remove the sales tax on farm equipment is only a partial step. There's no sales tax upon railroad equipment, on ICC trucking equipment, and there is, of course, also no personal property tax upon that equipment. And so we are in a position where once again we're being offered a bit of a compromise, so to speak, and I guess I have a question. I really would like to ask Senator Warner, what seems to be the reason why, Senator Warner, for the total adamant opposition to the removal of all personal property taxes, which, to me, I believe represents somewhat of a reversal for this body? Why is it so important that we tax a small portion of personal property under the so-called depreciation schedule program? What do we gain monetarily, as a state, what do we gain as a matter of taxation policy by returning that small portion of personal property to the tax rolls?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if I understand your question correctly, Senator Schmit, the amount of property that would be covered under the depreciable net book value concept...I'm not sure that it's a small amount because you're talking about both business equipment, farm equipment and livestock under that definition, and the tax base for the two...

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, could I have a gavel? I cannot hear a word that Mr., Senator Warner is saying.

SPEAKER BAACK: (Gavel.) Colleagues, please keep your conversations down.

SENATOR WARNER: I'm sorry, Senator Schmit, I was counting on that. The...

SENATOR SCHMIT: I couldn't hear that either.

SENATOR WARNER: Speak softly is better than mumble, you know. (Laughter.) Senator Schmit, I would say that there is a