

SENATOR WITHEM: ...the Warner amendment is good policy is simply, in my mind, because it's the last possible attempt to solve this issue and that's why I'm going to support it. I'm not going to support the rule suspension.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Withem. We will now go to Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, Senator Withem and Senator Warner are very adept at using numbers. They have used them over the years. Very rarely have those numbers been accurate. And I can assure you one thing that the hit on agriculture will be greater than what they have told us it will be. And if Senator Withem wants to take that \$78 million to the bank for his homeowners, if we put it all back on, I'm willing to do that. I join Senator Lamb and Senator Schellpeper, both of whom have tried valiantly and almost to the point where they have been severely chastised by their constituents to reach a middle ground. But the facts are, and I quote Senator Steve Fowler, he used to say, I like to compromise, but I never compromise when I have the votes. The facts are that, with the exception of the constitutional amendment, the antiagriculture...and I say it that way and I say it slowly and deliberately, the antiagriculture people have the votes. They have the votes. The point I want to make here is this, we are reversing policy, longstanding policy, when we revert to tax personal property. I did not vote for 772. I did not support amendments to 772. I did not support 773, giving tax breaks to rich people. But I do not support changes in tax policy that cause this Legislature to be held in disrepute. I did not support 775, but I do not support the repeal of 775, nor do I support the repeal of LB 518 of 1977. The hit upon the budget does not come from agriculture, ladies and gentlemen. This Legislature is reimposing upon agriculture a tax that has not been paid for 15 years. That is supposed to be moral, ethical and in keeping with good policy? I say nuts. If you can't reimpose the tax on 775 exemptions because we passed them five years ago, if you can't reimpose the tax on the rich that were included in 773, that was five years ago, how can you can stand on this floor and say ag has to take the hit? Now those who say we're going to take a \$40 million hit if we put it all back on, I want to say this, it isn't going to be that bad, ladies and gentlemen, because in the rural areas, in the rural areas that are probably dominantly rural if the tax all goes back on personal property, there will be a reduction, there will be a