

can. That's what they're doing. I think, for once, the rural legislators have perhaps recognized the direction we are going.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're next.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, we're finally at one of the, what I would call the major crossroads of this session in regards to tax policy. I think we've all known it was going to come down at some point to decision-making time. And I have been interested throughout the entire debate, in fact, this is the first time I've even spoken on the tax debate, of my rural colleagues who have a tremendous desire to represent their constituencies, my urban colleagues who have the same intense desires, and then there are a lot of people, such as myself, who are in the middle. We have mixed districts where one policy on the one side does not necessarily help us in the district, and on the other hand, the other side does not help us on the district. We're caught right in the middle. So it's a no-win scenario for many of us, and that's fine. But I think my analysis of the situation when we came into the session and I think most of the people in this body's analysis of the situation when we came into the session was at some point we would get to this moment. The first crossroads was crossed and we decided, as a body, that the best vehicle, if there was going to be a give and take so that 40 votes could possibly be there on a constitutional amendment, the first crossroads was crossed by the body last week when we decided to begin this week's discussion on LB 1063, because that was the best vehicle for a compromise to take place. And I would like to remind the body that a year or so ago I was not supportive of the constitutional amendment, I was not supportive in many of the cases of the ideas incorporated within 1063. Once we got on that road, we all knew what was going to happen. We all knew somewhere along the line there would be a discussion on two major areas, livestock and farm machinery. And we all knew, deep down, that it would come to whether or not this body was going to be able to find a common ground. And I'm glad Senator Withem and Senator Lamb enunciated their positions the way they did because it reemphasized to the body and to me and to the public where we have been and where we really haven't moved from on the issue. One side's saying if X happens, I cannot support a constitutional amendment. Some would look at that as a threat, some would simply say it's political reality. The other side's saying, I can't go any further than what I've gone; if it