

March 4, 1992

LB 1063
LR 219

to this compromise amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President, I was going to ask Senator Warner some questions, but maybe I will just comment on the amendment in his absence from his microphone. I'd just like to suggest that the amendment as proposed today, which is suggested as a compromise, was put together, not by different points of view as Senator Haberman has pointed out, by those who basically support LB 1063, and they have said, in effect, this is the best you are going to get. You can take it and you can like it, or we are going to do it to you anyway, and I guess that is the philosophy that may prevail on this floor. Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know how many of you have read LB 1063, but I have read it line by line, page by page, from cover to cover. I don't know how many of you have read and reread constitutional amendment 219CA, but I have read it very carefully. Senator Warner makes a point that the amendment is not wide open. It limits exemptions to certain specifics. Ladies and gentlemen, I have said it on the floor and I will say it again, if you adopt that amendment, you are not at the end of the line. You are not at the end of the line. There will be further court decisions that will have you back here in a year, two years, trying to correct the problems you've created. If you pass LB 1063, that will not be the final word. LB 1063, as amended by the Warner amendment, if you pass it, you will not pass it with my vote. I am sorry to hear rural legislators say, well, if that is the best I can get, I will go home and apologize to my people and tell them that is the best I could get. I have said it again, and again, and again, if you bleed...if you cut your wrist, ladies and gentlemen, you will eventually bleed to death. If you cut your jugular, you'll bleed a little faster. Eventually, you die. Everyone on this floor knows why certain tax policies are good and certain tax policies are not good. This body has bought certain exemptions under 775. We bought certain exemptions under 518. We said some can pass on cost and some can't, and that is why we have adopted a certain tax policy. One hundred and twenty-five years ago this state was basically rural and it made sense that government support came from the property. Today is no longer rural, and the most rural district does not have a majority of actually rural inhabitants. So those of us who argue for equity in tax policy do so under some political peril because we know that a majority of our constituents will disapprove of a tax policy which exempts all