

entitled to be taken care of, simply to avoid the explanations, the undue difficulties that the county assessors and others will have in implementing this system in midstream. So without any great deal of hostility toward the concepts that are embodied in 1063, I think the Coordsen amendment has a great deal of merit and will vote for it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, to again reiterate for the body a little bit in the rationale behind this particular amendment, that if, in fact, 1063 in its current form becomes the law of the State of Nebraska, it will dramatically alter the method of valuing business equipment, both in this year and years to come ahead, but also dramatically alter the method that has been historically used by the assessors to value business equipment in the past. In addition to that, we will be bringing into the property tax mix on the local level, the valuation mix, items of personal property that have not been assessed for property tax valuation for some 15 or more years, nearly 20 in a certain percentage cases. What this amendment would do, again, is to address some of those concerns. It treats both business and farm equipment the same way whether you're going backwards or forward. The only thing going forward would be, that would be of major significance, would be the up to \$10,000 or the Section 179 write-offs that would be reported to the county assessor when you establish the base line value for beginning the 150 percent declining balance, mid-year conventions, switching to straight line depreciation for tax purposes. That is proposed in this. A comment was made earlier this morning about this probably being unconstitutional. I rather suspect that the Attorney General's Opinion was referring to the case of the Meyer v. McNeil case back in 1970 when the Legislature did, in fact, try to base valuation of farm equipment up on the federal depreciated values and the court found that they were trying to create a sub-class within a broader class and, in fact, was in violation of the uniformity clause in our Constitution which somehow seems a little bit familiar at this time. Bear in mind that this case has very, very little bearing upon the discussion today because 1063 cannot become law of the State of Nebraska without a constitutional amendment authorizing the separation of the classes of property within the Constitution and providing the direction for the Legislature to use. So that's really not a