

property which was an abominable practice. Did not work. It was called a liar's tax. We decided we would take off the tax on household goods and no one cared. We decided that we would adopt other methods of exempting personal property. Lo and behold, in the old days the Omaha Chamber of Commerce supported that idea. Said it's good for business; do these things. Along came a couple of court decisions which changed the perspective somewhat and so when we had exempted 75 percent of the personal property it was decided that the best way is to go back. Oh, no, we're not going to tax inventory because nobody wants to tax inventories. Well, ladies and gentlemen, as nearly as I can tell, and don't expect to read this in the press or hear it on the radio, as nearly as I can tell the only people who propose and who favor the reimposition of the tax on personal property are those who are not being taxed, number one, or else those who use the tax revenue--cities, counties, schools. Now that's a pretty poor way to craft the tax policy. If, in fact, you're going to do that, then we ought to just find some really narrow group and zero in on that group. Of course, you would not get away with it, in most instances, because you can't tax an individual, male or female, for more than their income. But in the case of agricultural people you do better than that. You don't only worry about whether or not they have any income, you tax their capital asset. You tax..in fact, if there's any appreciation in that asset you tax that away. How many times have you picked up the newspaper and it said, come in and see us for a loan, borrow the equity out of your home and use it for something you need right now? Well, ladies and gentlemen, we've found a new gimmick in this Legislature. We are finding a way to take the equity that some businessmen...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ..and some individuals have earned in their business and we are taxing it away. That's a better system than letting that individual borrow it for some nefarious purpose, like buying a boat or going on a vacation. We take it away from that person. Keeps them working and keeps their nose to the grindstone and, of course, keeps them from getting into any other kind of trouble. Ladies and gentlemen, the system is bad. I'm going to get more descriptive as I go along, I'm afraid, but if you're going to try to force it then go ahead and approve Senator Wickersham's amendment, remembering how easy it will be to adopt other amendments that are favored by a majority of this body in years to come that are more discriminatory than the