

It's not going to make 1063 any more acceptable to me. It may get less acceptable. And anyone who thinks otherwise, when the press reports this tomorrow morning, I hope they do, I doubt that they will, but when they...if they do and when they do, if you think you had trouble in the past, ladies and gentlemen, the trouble is just beginning. There ought to be one more amendment on this bill. It ought to say that any farmer...Well, I shouldn't say that. I'm beginning to be more and more picky on it. I just think that we have here, ladies and gentlemen, started, as Senator Lamb has conceded, a very dangerous precedent. We are now putting a special tax on fertilizer for no good purpose except to raise revenue. It makes a lot more sense to me, Senator Beutler, that we would put the tax on for the purpose that you wanted to put it on. It will make a lot more sense, Senator Lindsay, if the Omaha water supply becomes contaminated with nitrogen that we double or triple the tax on fertilizers so as to help the City of Omaha and the City of Lincoln clean up their water supply. That makes a lot more sense. But to impose a tax upon yourself, as we have done here, for no good purpose and for which we receive nothing in return when we ought to have been holding out for the retention of a stable, sensible kind of state tax program is indefensible. Now...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ..there are those who say Schmit's a poor loser. You bet your life I am. It took a good many years from the time I first came in here before we were able to take the tax off personal property and it meant something in those days and we had the support of urban and rural legislators. Today, we have become so revenue starved that we will tax almost anything we can to raise the revenue. I can understand it from the standpoint of the urban legislators. I can't understand it otherwise. I think that having done what we have done we ought now do the right thing and declare farm equipment inventory and thereby not have to pay the tax on farm equipment. We have just voluntarily assessed ourselves a major additional tax.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You're going to say, well, we've taken it off, you don't have to worry about it. Ladies and gentlemen, don't put that in the bank. I...if there's no disadvantage to it, we've already taken it off the tax rolls for sales taxes, why