

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I wasn't going to speak, but obsessive compulsion just overcame me, and sometimes just a change of voice will wake up the body a little bit. But I felt compelled to put my light on because I want to say kudos to Senator Dierks, absolutely kudos to Senator Dierks. That was the greatest speech I've heard in my short tenure of being in public office. I did sit through some of the Revenue Committee's hearings on these 3-R plan and the other plans. And what I did here was when former Senator Vard Johnson spoke everybody would say, oh, isn't he articulate, and oh, what a great speaker, and oh, isn't he wonderful, wasn't it great to work with him, which I had to agree, it must have been great to be in here when the esteemed senator was in office, and I wish I could have served with him, too, to listen to his articulate speeches. But none, none could have beat Senator Dierks heartrending, heartwarming speech tonight. And I, in interest of ag, since I do represent both ag and rural, I will say that every weekend, yes, every weekend I get calls stating the same thing that he has said tonight. I get calls from people, farmers who said that they have no college education because they chose to be a farmer, they wanted to be a farmer like their fathers and grandfathers were farmers, and they're losing money, and they can't farm anymore. When our business climate was bad, when our economy was bad in Nebraska this body passed LB 775. And the reason they did pass LB 775 was because our economy was hurting, and they fixed it via 775. Well, our farm economy is hurting now and nobody wants to fix our farm economy now. I...I support LB 1063 simply because I firmly believe that exempting ag and business inventory could save our state from financial disaster. But nobody is helping the agriculture sector, nobody is looking at how are we going to save our young farmers from going out of state, and how are we...we going to keep the young farmers farming, how are we going to keep the farmers in business, like we were doing at one time when LB 775 was passed and we were looking for industry to come in to create low paying jobs, as it turned out, and big, top paying jobs went to the CEO's. I think it's about time that our body and our state looked to saving agriculture the same way it did to save our business economy when we passed 775. I don't know how to do it,