

March 10, 1992

LB 1063

the constitutional amendment, and that is whether or not the Constitution needs to be changed at all. Some of you believe it does not. I am with those who believe that unless it is changed, based on the court decision that came down last July, that inventory, business equipment, farm equipment, livestock shall be taxed at market value. That impact has been estimated to be in the vicinity of 40 million to agriculture on a statewide basis. I can think of nothing that would be more adverse, not only to ag, but to the whole economy of the state than if we go that route because it will have fall out in many, many places across this state on the economic expansions that could occur. Back when this discussion started very early, over a year ago now, one of the criteria that was frequently said and one I subscribe to that whatever changes we made, we were going to attempt to have that distribution of the cost because of Supreme Court decisions fall back somewhat comparable to what the situation was prior to the court decisions, and that as a general policy, we should not attempt to shift that cost for a solution to the court's decisions generally to individuals across the state.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: And my support for the 1063 and for the constitutional amendment follows that broad concept. In my opinion, 1063, as it stands, does follow that concept and it stays as close as one is going to be able to get and still have a constitutional classification system for personal property and avoid shifting the burden of taxation to those who are not directly affected by taxes on personal property, and as a result be able to amend the Constitution, which I strongly believe is necessary in order to address the issue at all. Obviously those of you, again, who do not believe a constitutional amendment is necessary, your solution is very simple. You vote against the constitutional amendment and you work against it...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: ...and then we will see who the court decides is right.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President and members of the body, I'd like to ask Senator Schmit a question, please.

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