

SENATOR WARNER: ...the courts on whether everything can be exempt.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Warner, did you wish to speak? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman and members, I know that you have seen this article written by Mr. John Boehm in which he refers to some of the problems that have just been discussed by Senator Warner and Senator Scott Moore. Mr. Boehm, a former tax commissioner, agrees with Mr. Bill Peters, also a former tax commissioner, one under a Republican governor, the other a Democrat governor, that we do not need a constitutional amendment to exempt all personal property. I do not know whether they are correct or not. But, in the absence of any other opinion to the contrary, I am willing to accept the opinion of two former tax commissioners, two lawyers. I do not know Mr. Boehm very well. I know Mr. Peters very well. And I recall well the many years he worked as a tax commissioner, the years he worked as a lobbyist, and I have been on the opposite sides of the gentleman and I have been working with him in some cases. But I found him very rarely to be inaccurate and I don't think I have ever found him to give me an opinion that was wrong. It usually took...sometimes it took several years, took a court case or two, but his opinion was usually of help. I didn't used to like Mr. Peters but I found, after a period of time, that whether you like someone or not, it had nothing to do with whether or not they were capable and intelligent and accurate. And so I found that by working with him, listening to his advice, I avoided some of the problems that fell upon some of my colleagues. We all know that it's easy to disregard advice around this place and sometimes we all do, but when an issue is as important as this I think it's important that we state for the record, and I wish someone else would do it other than myself, that there is an option other than the 1063 proposal and that option is to remove all taxes from personal property. We talk about the difficulty in returning and distributing the money to local governments. Well, \$100 million out of approximately \$4 billion is a very small amount of money. Four billion dollar plus tax bill in this state, \$100 million is not that major an impact. And the most important thing to remember is this, I don't think you're going to devise a system ever, we never have yet, where you send it back dollar for dollar, and I would rather never get any money back than to proceed down the 1063 path, notwithstanding what my friend,