

Legislature was discussing an amendment by Senator Schmit, AM3317.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Wehrbein, you had your light on when we recessed for lunch. Do you wish to speak again?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I would like to call the question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: There is no other lights on. Senator Schmit, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman and members, there are many things I could say about this amendment, much of which you have heard before, much of which you will hear again, but the point that I want to make today is this. Over the lunch hour I was in my office during the entire period. I received calls from bankers, businessmen, and farmers, and without exception, they expressed support for the elimination of the personal property tax totally. They could not understand why rural persons on this floor would think there was anything to be gained by the reimposition of the tax on personal property and then exempting farm machinery from taxation, but by a unique process, and then accepting a \$4 per ton tax on fertilizer, so...and thinking we had a good deal. And one of the individuals, kind of an individual crusty banker said, you know, when you sell something, you usually get something in exchange. I don't think you folks got anything in exchange. And he said I think you made a bad deal. But what concerned him most of all though was the adverse impact the personal property tax will have upon his customers, not just farmer customers, but his business customers. He said these businesses in rural Nebraska, whether in Norfolk, or Grand Island, or Lexington, depend upon agriculture for their support, and if the agricultural machinery slows down, and the engine is not filled, it doesn't take very long and the rest of the equipment sputters to a halt. The problem you have today and this individual recognized it because he was very active when we repealed the taxes 15 years ago, he said, and he feeds a lot of cattle and he has a lot of customers that feed cattle, he said what will happen is next year when you need more money, and the counties need more money, and the schools need more money, it is a natural progression that you will eliminate the tax on...or that you will reimpose all of the tax on all livestock, and I guess, I don't know, who is here, I guess that I should ask Senator Warner this question. Senator