

those who campaigned so hard for that amendment, I hope that those farm organizations who said we have got to have this, we have got to have this tax break, when several of us, especially Senator Warner and myself cautioned against it, warned against it, spoke against it, because that is the really dangerous, really dangerous change we have made in our tax policy in my time in this Legislature. There have been many bills that have passed on this floor that I have opposed that became law, which I didn't like. But if there were one thing I could change, I would change that constitutional amendment. If, in fact, the tax on personal property becomes so bad that I can't function, I can do something else. I can rent the land out. I can hire it farmed. I can rent the pasture out. I can do all of those things, but, ladies and gentlemen, if this Legislature at some future date, I should say, when this Legislature at a future date decides to apply the rule of personal property to farmland, then it will be Katy, bar the door. It is totally possible and likely and probable that ag land can be confiscated through a tax policy approved by the rural people of this Legislature, of this Legislature and also of Nebraska. Of Nebraska, that is what is even more devastating. Wouldn't be so bad if we hadn't been warned. Several senators, Senator Hall, Senator Chambers, in a moment of jest, I suppose, offered amendments pointing out what could happen. No, no one believed it. It can only go down, can't go up. Well, when the same individuals were warned that if they didn't protect their investment in the personal property tax structure as it was passed in '78, they'd lose it. Couldn't tell them anything. Yesterday we had a rather respectable group of farmers down here, 30, 40 of them. That is not too bad out of 60,000, not too bad.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Where are they at today? Back home, on the farm, feeding cattle, doing the jobs they have to do. Why? They think we function without that sort of a surveillance. What do you suppose people in the lobby are doing? What do you suppose would happen if this bill impacted adversely upon some other element of society? The lobby would be full. The balconies would be full. Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to support the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner. Senator Warner waives off. Seeing no other lights on, Senator Schmit, would you like to close?