

March 10, 1992

LB 1063  
LR 219

passes, the personal property tax goes back on, agriculture and business equipment, and some livestock. If it does not pass, you lose again. Everything goes back on, and for the benefit of those rural members who believe in God and the Legislature, I would not be too optimistic about a second shot at exempting personal property from taxation, and we will have closed the door for a long time on a better system of taxation. Now Senator Hall has said you had a chance and you blew it, and you blew it because you wouldn't listen to any other suggestions. You took the bit in your teeth and you ran with it, and you said the people be darned. The people will not abide by that forever, and they are better informed than most of us think they are. I can tell you from the reaction of the past few days that the people know that they are not going to continue to be abused by elected people. This constitutional amendment should not pass, should not be sent to the people in this manner. It would be interesting to see, and I am not sure what happens, it is possible that maybe there will be an initiative that will be offered, and that initiative might be more specific, less cumbersome, less clever, and hopefully more fair. The different types of treatment that we are giving property is bad enough if we did it inadvertently, but to do it deliberately and with some element of pride boggles my mind.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am going to listen to the debate further. I do not know if the amendment can be put in any kind of condition that would be acceptable. I still feel that if you are going to throw caution to the winds, then you ought to have just gone with the amendment that I proposed and give the Legislature a blank check, and then the people can hold us responsible. But to build these different fences in the Constitution is an attempt to, after the fact, accommodate LB 1063's role, and I oppose the procedure, and I don't know if I oppose the amendment yet at this time or not.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Lindsay, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise in support of the Kristensen amendment. The question, the date was put in along with this language when I was just trying to put together language between General File and Select File which might be acceptable to the body, that would preserve some