

March 11, 1992

LB 1063
LR 219

proportionately. It does not leave all of those wiggle rooms in all those areas. It is very clear in what it is intended to do, and it allows for the Legislature to set up the method. Certainly, LB 1063, it would be foolish to pass it if the constitutional amendment didn't allow for that, but the assertion that the constitutional amendment is only done to ramrod through LB 1063 I think is wrong because down the line later Legislatures will look at this Constitution as they develop tax policy. In 10 or 15 years, maybe a depreciation system is one that we don't like in 10 or 15 years. And so we are going to be bound by the guidelines here, and if we don't do a tax at a depreciated cost method, it shall all be taxed by valuation uniform and proportionate. We do have that other option which is to go back to the system that we did have at one time, but it doesn't allow us to play games in between there. The Constitution is well worded in that respect. Senator Lindsay's amendment, I think, got at the point he brought up last week and that was, what about future exemptions? Can we do those? Should there freely be exemptions in the future? And I think that freely allowing exemptions in the future causes a lot of us great concern. I live in the middle of the state. Maybe that's somewhat representative of my position on 1063. I feel like I've been put in the middle of that debate. But the part of the Constitution that I think you should look at is what about freely giving exemptions in the future? Undoing with just 25 votes what's already been done here this year, I don't think...there is very few of us that want to do that. And so you need some standards, something that makes it a little more difficult than just the whim of 25 people and I think, Senator Lynch, you certainly would agree with that, that you don't want 25 people just being able to go off and start exempting things, because it may well be people exempting their own property to the detriment of your district. Senator Schmit probably wants the same thing. He doesn't want other people to go off and freely exempt property that would be to the detriment of his constituents. Both sides certainly have different goals. They have the same fear but it's the fear of the other side. And so what you do is instead of saying one's right or one's wrong, you place standards.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: What is that standard? Now Senator Lindsay has a standard that I don't think fits in the Constitution very well right now. And I...he's looking at an amendment that I