

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, then I guess if we're going to suspend the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, we ought to suspend the U.S. Constitution also. I don't know if that makes sense.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I...that's...that's, one, you can't do it...

SENATOR SCHMIT: I mean...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...and, two, that that standard still applies.

SENATOR SCHMIT: See, I have a very strong conviction, Senator Kristensen, that we should not be suspending, in effect, the Constitution of the State of Nebraska any more than we should suspend the U.S. Constitution. We are doing this in a manner which I believe is not logical and we are doing it for an improper purpose. We are doing it because we have built into the statutes and into the Constitution now...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...a special type of...of levying for taxes or exemptions from taxes. Those are, in my opinion, not fair. And so we say, well, notwithstanding the fact that we're not supposed to do this, we're going to do it anyway and the citizen be damned. I think that's wrong. And I think that we will come to regret it. I think that, unfortunately, we will come to regret it at too late a date and, as Senator Lynch indicated, there isn't anyone going to go out here and fund the protections of the legal expense for the individual citizen to protest this sort of thing. The large companies can do it and they will do it. But if it gets down to where it's the homeowner in South Omaha or the small farmer, small businessman, they will just be wiped out and I think it's dangerous.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, as I understand the amendments that are before us, we're dealing with just specifically, primarily at the moment, with how do you exempt. And if you make no change in the Constitution from the way it is now, it's my opinion that you couldn't do any exemption because of those items that were outlined, the special legislation and those other provisions that are covered by the