

will happen if, first, 1063 is adopted and, secondly, 219CA is adopted, no one can cast an intelligent vote. If a farmer or a business person votes for the bill they know they are going to pay personal tax on some of their equipment on a depreciated basis and on their livestock that way, the same with the businessman. If they do not vote for the bill and it does not become a part of the Constitution, then all personal property goes back on the tax rolls. I do not call that a choice. I do not think that 60,000 Nebraska farmers consider that to be a choice and 100,000 Nebraska businessmen and women. What concerns me is that my constituents and most of the citizens have been threatened with the idea that it will all go back on. The amendment and the bill were designed that way, to threaten the public into voting for the amendment. That is not being honest. There is no other description for it. If you vote for the Moore amendment, there are two clear choices and those choices have been well defined by Senator Moore. I hope I have the chance to speak later on again. I'm going to quote from an experience I had many years ago way back when I was a youngster about the importance of the Constitution. Basically we all know the Constitution should be kept as plain and as uncomplicated as possible so that the ordinary citizen understands that it is the citizens' guarantee of equal protection. It is the citizens' guarantee of equal rights. The amendment as it is drafted is designed to take away...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...those rights by confusing the public and it should not happen. One more point that I think needs to be made is the point which Senator Lynch made this morning and that is that the homeowner does not know how to vote. If the homeowner votes for the amendment, they're going to probably see an increase in their taxes. I would expect a more than modest increase in real estate taxes in Lincoln and Omaha, for example, if the amendment passes. If the amendment does not pass, there could be a substantial decrease as was pointed out I believe by Senator Withem some time ago if everything goes back on. You have two conflicting points of view.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You have a number of issues which are diametrically opposed to each other. And the way it is drafted you cannot get a fair vote. I support the Moore amendment.