

July 15, 1991

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SPEAKER BAACK: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. We will now proceed to vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 13 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate does not cease. Senator Kristensen, you are next.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I am not sure that anybody knows where we are headed right now, and maybe that is good. I will say one thing, though, and Senator Schmit isn't here. I was glad to see he went over to Senator Morrissey's home to see the art collection, I assume that is where he went to do that. Senator Wesely brought to us some numbers and, Senator Lynch, I was curious about talking about what people know and what they don't know. And I don't see any way in the world that Senator Wesely's numbers that he brings to us on what is out there for personal property, how you will ever get a handle on that? How in the world would you know how much farm equipment is out there? Oh, the Revenue Department can probably look on their tax returns and see what they've depreciated, but you know that is current year depreciation. That doesn't include the stuff that you write off in one year, and only maybe one-year old but will have for another ten years. That doesn't include property that you may not put on your depreciation schedule. How do you know how much property anybody has out there in inventory? Oh, you can kind of guess. We have no idea, and you won't know. You are not going to know until you put that stuff on the tax rolls and then it is too late. So I don't think it is fair to take those numbers that Senator Wesely threw out, it talks about shifts, because I don't think you are ever going to know. What's the purpose of that? Why are those numbers not any good? It points to the whole system of personal property tax. We've talked about keeping the status quo, and I do think there is a little bit of that in here. The tendency, people want to keep things the way they are and let's just kind of fix it so we can go home. Well, I guess I don't buy onto that either because I think you do have the opportunity here to do away with a system that has caused us problems for 20 years and that is the personal property tax system itself. As long as you are going