

exemptions back on the rolls, it is only a matter of time before other court cases will eventually put the rest of them on, and what are the rest of them? Exemptions for charitable, religious, educational. How about some of these hospitals that you have? Can you imagine taxing the personal property in your hospitals? Tremendous amounts. What does that do? Drives up the cost of health care. But let's just say that we go ahead and we do eventually get all those things put back on and there will be a dramatic shift. Which direction? I don't think we will know which direction it will go. But the system will be undermined because of the very basic integrity of having people self-assess. That is the reason real property is a more valid system.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: There is a system of doing it and it's the one we ought to rely on. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Labeledz is next. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard others rise and say that they support the concept of what is before us now, and I would have to join in that, but with a very limited expression of support for the concept I guess as we see expressed to us today in the committee amendments. The necessity for separating real and personal property is apparent based on the decision of the Supreme Court. We have to remove personal property from the uniformity clause. Otherwise, this body and the people of this state will have no discretion or no say in the setting of future tax policy as it relates to personal property and, arguably, even as it relates to real property. I could not support the committee amendments for at least two reasons; first, because they omit any reference to intangible property and Senator Wehrbein spoke about that earlier. It would be my opinion that by omitting all reference to intangible property that we would be unable, even if we made a legislative decision later on, unable to tax intangibles. Now I understand that we are a long way in this body from imposing a tax on intangibles but I am unwilling to give that up as an option for tomorrow or some other future date. We are simply tying our hands in a way that is not responsible, particularly if we are truly talking about having a broad-based personal property tax system. Secondly, the committee amendments