

just...we adopted the Landis amendment to the constitutional amendment, to LR 1, and we are now on the committee amendments, as amended. Correct? And we do have an amendment to the committee amendments. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment to the committee amendments is offered by Senator Ashford. (Ashford amendment appears on page 96 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Just a couple introductory comments. First of all, I have not certainly been involved in the loop of any particular discussions with the Governor's office or the Revenue Committee, or really anybody else, particularly. And so this amendment is being brought by me pretty much as an effort to try and find a consensus or a middle ground on this issue. Could I get a gavel, Mr....

SPEAKER BAACK: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: My second, I guess, introductory comment would be that I believe absolutely sincerely that what the Supreme Court, in MAPCO, has told us to do as a Legislature is to deal with the issue of personal property tax exemptions in this body, and that that is why...via a constitutional amendment, and that's why we were called into special session. That...it's my firm belief that the MAPCO decision has changed the game considerably from what we were playing with prior to the MAPCO decision being rendered in the regular session. The Supreme Court has made a decision which in many respects, in my view, is very surprising, not only because it basically indicated that the exemptions were...the three classic exemptions were unconstitutional, but in the remedy that it crafted, which was to not value the property, the affected property at zero, but to equal at...to indicate that the property involved should be equalized. I think that significantly changes the game. And I believe that we, as a Legislature, have given...been given the responsibility to do something about that, and to deal as a Legislature with the issue of personal property tax exemptions, as raised by the MAPCO case. I'm firmly...I firmly believe that it is not our function, as I said before, to simply give to the people of the State of Nebraska nothing, which is what the...in effect, nothing dealing with the personal property tax exemption