

July 17, 1991

LB 6  
LR 1

very clear and decisive manner. Those who do not...What this amendment would do, ladies and gentlemen, would be to extend the exemptions contained in LB 829, through June 30 of 1992. The reason for this is very simple. We have been told that if we don't do this, if we don't pass LB 6, and, if we don't pass LR 1, certain events will take place. If we pass both, other events will take place. Basically, what happens if we pass both of them is that we come back to this Legislature and there then begins the struggle as to what will become exempt from personal property taxation. Is that right or not, Senator Hall?

SENATOR HALL: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes. So, therefore, at that time we will determine on this floor whether or not livestock, business inventory, farm equipment, other items will be exempt from taxation. It is my belief that there is a consensus on this floor, as evidenced by Senator Beutler's amendment proposed the other day and several other points of view, that business inventories will not be taxed. And I agree with that. I do not believe they should be taxed. There is a consensus, I believe, that cattle on feed would not be taxed, and I concur with that. There is a mixed point of view as to whether or not breeding livestock should be taxed. I, frankly, think it should not be taxed. Whether or not it's taxed will depend upon how much money can be raised, and how much money can be utilized to hire lobbyists to convince 25 of us to exempt them or not to exempt them. Then comes the crush. What about the business equipment, the typewriters, the computers, and the rest of that equipment that are so called tools of the trade? There is no real lobbying force for that exemption. And I would suggest that those items will be not exempted from taxation. I would suggest that farm equipment will not be exempted from taxation. And so as of that time I do not have the numbers, but it may be that the Revenue Department can give us some numbers. I would suggest that probably 85 percent of all personal property will be exempted from taxation, 15 percent by constitutional mandate will be taxed. It is not my idea of what is fair or what is equitable, it is only that which we all know to be true, the rule...the Golden Rule, he who has the gold makes the rules. If you have sufficient gold to hire sufficient lobbyists to influence a sufficient number of legislators, then you get away scot-free, if you do not, you simply will be taxed. Time after time we heard speakers, we heard individuals we heard politicians, we heard editorial writers say, how can that be