

July 17, 1991

LB 6

LR 1

arguments the sky is falling.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time. Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Wesely, Lamb, and Will.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Madam President. I am glad that Senator Hall asked a question of Senator Landis because it answered the whole issue. Senator Landis's fears are justified based upon the decisions through 1990. They do not address 829. LB 829 is law, 829 will be law, and that is the situation which we face as of today. I am amazed, as I said earlier, if this Legislature is so eminently fair in all instances, as we have been told, and I believe it most of the time, that then why were the beneficiaries of the 775 exemptions down here this morning and they saw to it that their exemptions were carved out in statute, LB 6. They did not wait until 1992 for the big battle of the exemptions that someone spoke about. They got theirs first and they went home smiling. And if you think that those people will be down here to lobby for the exemptions for agriculture, you have got sawdust for brains, and you ought to resign. Ask Senator Landis how many times he led the fight on this floor for personal property tax exemptions. I don't think he did, justifiably so because he has a different kind of constituency. For 20 years, I have been involved in those. For the last 15 years, I have taken either the credit or the blame, depending upon who you are speaking to, for LB 518. And 518 was the one which, as we said, removed all exemptions. I will say this, most politicians when it was popular to do so, took credit themselves for eliminating those personal property taxes, but today I do not support LR 1 because I think, as Senator Chambers, I wish he were here, no good tax attorney, if a company called him and said tell me what that opinion does, would give you an answer in seven days. And there are 49 of us here, all kinds of backgrounds, all kinds of interest, all kinds of convictions, but very little really good information, all coming to a different conclusion. Senator Robinson says I want to protect those exemptions. My gosh, Senator Robinson, didn't you listen to what Senator Beutler told you. He told you there is going to be a shift from 16 to 60 million dollars of 1059 money from rural to urban. What do you want? Do you want him to put it in stone for you and beat you over the head with it? Do you think that Senator Beutler and the others can, in all honesty, as they represent their constituency, not use that as a consideration? Are you saying that if we put LR 1 before the voters, and if the voters do, in fact, approve it, that we're