

we would have moved with such haste to enact that amendment to exempt those people. As a matter of fact, this type of exemption will show what the Legislature's purpose is in trying to assess and tax tangible personal property in different ways. It means that the rich will get richer and the poor will get poorer because the rich are not going to pay their taxes and the poor will. The present system is inequitable. A tremendous amount of this personal property is exempted already under the current system. If we are professing, by the consideration of the constitutional amendment, that we intend to restructure the tax system and that is all that we say, I can't be critical. But there is a caveat always added or suggested the restructuring is for the purpose of being fair. Some of the senators have even gotten more specific than that. They have said to be fair to homeowners. If we continue to exempt the tangible personal property of the big shots, then real property is where the bulk of the taxes will have to come from. So I am offering an amendment to strike the Baack amendment. When he came in this morning in his light gray suit, I told him he should have worn a darker suit because it's my hope that this will be the day that we will bury his amendment. He said he would change but I didn't think that was necessary, but I see he has taken off his coat so I guess he's prepared for battle. And having made the pitch that I have, and I hope that enough of you will agree, I will listen to the debate and see where we will go.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I will now recognize Senator Lamb, followed by Senators Wesely, Baack, Nelson, Warner and Ashford. Senator Lamb. Senator Lamb. We have not had sufficient debate, Senator Lamb. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Madam President and members, I rise in support of the Chambers amendment. I think many of you saw the headlines in the World-Herald after the amendment was adopted just a couple of days ago. The Legislature shields LB 775 tax exemptions. Some people were offended. They felt that that was unfair. I think that was accurate. I think what this Legislature decided to do was to shield LB 775 exemptions and earthmoving equipment exemptions. That's exactly what we did. If you didn't want to do that, if you didn't like to do that, you shouldn't have done it and this is your chance to reconsider and remove that amendment, because not only did you take away the chance for us to equalize the situation and put those exemptions...the exempted properties back on the tax rolls