

learned is that the more entities or the more individuals who achieve the exemptions, the less likely for equity for all people to occur. The homeowner has been talked about a lot on this floor but, in all reality, the homeowner, be that person rural or urban, is going to be the forgotten person of the legislative session. Along with that homeowner will be the small businessman and the average type farmer. I have watched the coalitions over the years function and Senator Beutler was correct, partly at least, Senator Beutler, when you said several days ago that a coalition would get together and that enough votes could be garnered to achieve certain exemptions. That is the way it was done. That's the way it was done every time we did it but it was only successful because the coalitions held together and all of those entities who paid personal taxes were able to achieve their goal because they were able to convince the Legislature that the personal property tax was unfair. Now there are those who would argue that the tax on real estate is too high and I would concur with that, but it is a fact that if we do exempt those entities under the amendment to LB 6 that were, I believe, principally the 775 exemptions and I believe earthmoving equipment, in any case the 775 exemptions go to entities that do have the ability to pass on the tax. It's a burden. It may be unfair. I would support their exemption in a regular session of the Legislature when all exemptions are considered but I would have to say at this time that I believe it is the poorest possible policy and it gives the public the poorest possible image of this Legislature that we would isolate those entities which are most capable of defending themselves. Senator Lindsay said several days ago, and I did not have the opportunity to respond, that the reason those exemptions were handled in this manner was so that the red herring of 775 would not be dragged across the constitutional amendment at that special election. Well, Senator Lindsay and all of us know that with those exemptions isolated the opportunity for other exemptions to be addressed becomes slim to none. One of the principal arguments offered by the railroads, pipelines and others was that 75 percent of the personal property was exempt and only 25 percent was paying tax. I would suggest that if we proceed down the road on which we are going today, that we will tax much less than 25 percent of the personal property...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and that those entities who will pay it are the least able to pay it and are totally unable to pass on the