

property tax area, those are legitimate and they need to be addressed but not at this time in this special session. This bill deals with a one-time, one-year problem. Let's not put on it amendments that provide exemptions forevermore. And so that's my main concern. I think we're arguing a problem and a concern, legitimate though it may be, but not in the place, not with this bill, not at this time, let's deal with a one-time problem. Let's try and join hands and deal with that problem and understand that the tax is a one-time, one-year tax. The problem is not going to go on forever. The tax is not going to go on forever. We've got a constitutional amendment. We have some stability back into the system and that system can be adjusted as time goes on next session and beyond but not now. At this point, these sort of amendments and these sort of issues end up dividing us at a time we need to find a way to join hands and work together because we have a very serious, acute problem, not a long-term problem, at this time that needs to be addressed. That long-term problem is better addressed during the special...during the regular session. So I'm trying to make the point again. Let's not look at this amendment and other amendments, let's look at the bill and deal with the one-time problem, not the long-term problem.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I've spent quite a little time in the past couple weeks trying to do some research as to how farmers are treated in other states. And, Senator Wesely, if you will stand by, I've got a question I would like to ask you beings you were the previous speaker. From what my research has indicated, we are the only state in the nation where we tax farmers for purchased fertilizer where the revenue is routed to the General Fund, I mean the only state in the nation. There are some states that have some fees and so on and so forth but nothing as punitive as we have with the fertilizer tax. I'm one of those individuals out there that purchases breeding livestock. I've seen some personal property tax statements and if you purchased bred heifers this past year, you're probably going to pay in the vicinity of 10 to \$12 per head taxes on those bred heifers. Now, we are the only state in the area that I know of that taxes personal property. It's a terrible disincentive for someone who wants to get in the agricultural business. And as I heard testimony at the hearing, Senator Wesely, we have gone from the second largest state in the nation as far as the number of bred