

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I apologize for not having heard all of the discussion. I wish I had had the chance to listen to both Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Cal Carsten. I am in support of LB 30 as it was written. I do not know if I am in support of the bill with the amendments or not. I believe that those of us on this floor who are familiar with land prices today know that the '84 manual is probably too high based upon today's farmland prices. It would be sort of an irony if we did not pass LB 30 and then, in fact, if we pass it, it may well be that there will be challenges of those valuations. I can say with emphasis that land again in my county...in my district this last week was offered for sale and did not sell at a price perhaps one-third less of what it would have sold for at the peak. So the 1984 manual, I am sure, has enough discrepancies in it already, I would be very hesitant to adopt the amendments unless I could be assured that there would not be any basis for litigation between the counties that used the soil survey results and those that did not. And I will have to listen to the debate further before I make up my mind on that. I think it is very important, it is extremely important that we do not do anything here which causes any problem in several areas. First of all, when amendment four was being debated, we promised many times emphatically that we wanted to maintain the status quo. Now that can mean several things to several people, but most important is we do not want a major shift from one class of property to another, not from the rural to the urban or vice versa but also not between the classes of property. We do not want a shift between one type of rural property and another. Now if the amendments improve that position, then I could support them. If they do not, then I would not be able to support it and I would hope that the committee Chairman will perhaps embellish this a little bit further so that we know exactly the results of what we are doing. If we are not careful, we are going to pass a bill which could encourage litigation which could result then in the counties' school districts not getting their funds and further aggravate a very serious problem that already exists in many areas. I visited with several county treasurers in the past week who are having a