

PRESIDENT: Next is Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if we are not all thoroughly confused by now, then I will try to add to it I suppose but I would just like to say I agree with most of what has been said here. Now if you are not thoroughly confused with that, I think that Senator Beutler has a point but I agree with what Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Cal Carsten have said that we can pass LB 30 as it stands today. There are bills in the Revenue Committee at the present time, and I have no doubt that we are going to bring one of those bills to the floor and pass it. I don't think we are going to find ourselves in the quandary at the time of the close of this legislative session. I would not like to do what Senator John DeCamp has suggested because I think if we do that, John, it gives a little bit of an extra hammer to some people I would rather not have that kind of clout and I am not pointing anyone out in particular, but I think that if we all have an aura of doubt hanging over our head, we will resolve that issue much more readily with a subsequent bill. So, therefore, I would just like to go ahead and read LB 30 as it stands, do it today, and then proceed to allow the Revenue Committee to send a bill to the floor, which at that time then we could hammer out the details. I don't think there is any one of us wants to go through this a year from now again under any kind of an emergency status. Let me tell you what would happen if we do. Given the present decline in rural real estate values, if the assessors went back to the old manual type system, they are not talking about 70 percent of previous values, they are talking about 20 and 25 and 30 percent of previous values, and if you want to see chaos in the country, just try to see some counties operate with that kind of a market value as they establish assessed value for rural property and you are going to see court houses that will close and city governments that will come to a screeching halt because the resources are not going to be there. So I would suggest that it would be much more expedient and wise to proceed to read LB 30. We've had the debate here. The debate is a matter of record. Sure, there is some different points of view but nonetheless it places the responsibility where it belongs, directly with the 49 members of this body to come to some kind of an agreement without any extra clout being given to rural or urban legislators. We have got to face it and we have got to face it this year. I think that would be a good way to