

PRESIDENT: The house is under call by that vote. All members of the Legislature return to the Chamber if you are outside the Chamber. Members are properly to be in their seats during the time the house is under call. Unauthorized personnel should leave the floor of the Legislature. One is excused at the present time. One member is excused. All members of the Legislature throughout the building within hearing of my voice, please return to the Legislature and record your presence. The house is under call preliminary to voting on an amendment by Senator DeCamp to LB 662. Two members are excused at the present time. Please record your presence. Senator Higgins, would you record your presence. Members, please look up to the front of the Chamber and see if your green light is on. We want you to record your presence. Senator Harris, Senator Wesely, Senator Chronister, Senator Labeledz. Senator Labeledz, the house is under call. Senator Chronister is here. Senator Wesely, please. Senator Wesely and Labeledz and Senator Labeledz is here. We have...everyone is here who is not excused and, Senator DeCamp, you may proceed.

SENATOR DEKAMP: Mr. President, the incredible thing about this particular amendment is that it is so much better than the bill and should be sponsored by the supporters rather than by me. Let me explain by addressing the arguments raised against it. What's the purpose of 662? To close the tax havens. How do you close them? Not by 662 which creates a system of again shopping to find the lowest district here, the lowest district there, and that district may or may not have quality or ability to survive and it's strung out over a period of years. What does this do? It says tomorrow morning all property that's in this situation is going to be taxed uniformly, and you know something, that's where we should have been heading for years on our entire property tax system. Why? Why should property taxes be purely a capricious incident of two things? One, breeding habits of humans. That's right. Breeding habits of humans, the number of kids in a particular area that have to be educated. And the second thing is geography. That's what our system is based on now and as a result of it we try to carve out and have carved out for years school districts, one of which will be paying three times as much as the one next door. Uniformity, that's what this establishes. For the first time ever in the state, what was it they said, 75 percent of all agricultural land would be treated uniformly and taxed uniformly. That would get you halfway