

people that have been crying for property tax relief. We've already given it again this year to agriculture and I'm not speaking against agriculture. Their taxes are going to go way down this year since they say they have been losing money year after year, but let's be fair about it. Let's not say that the man who is paying \$800 a year in taxes is going to get an \$80 tax refund and the one who is paying \$50,000 is going to get \$1,000 tax refund or \$40,000 on his property. I own three separate pieces of property and if I took 10 percent of the taxes I pay on all of them, it won't reach \$300.

SENATOR LABEDZ PRESIDING.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Less than one minute, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Labedz, this is the first chance you got to tell me to be quiet. From the conversation going on under the south balcony, I don't think anybody is really listening. I think everybody has made up their mind how they are going to vote on this amendment so I will cease my conversation. As so often happens in this Legislature, we tell the taxpayers that we're down here to work for them and instead we walk around, talk to each other, have minds that are closed like steel traps, not all of us. Some senators do listen and try to do what is best for the people. That's the only reason I spoke was to try to speak for the property owner who is not a millionaire. Thank you.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, as soon as you turn on the mike...thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise in opposition to the amendment. I rise, not only in opposition to the amendment, I rise in opposition to many of the remarks made by my colleague, my good friend, Senator DeCamp. I guess I'm a little bit amazed that...I'm always amazed at John's ambivalence and his ability to get on both sides of an issue and have us wonder where he's coming from. Only yesterday he stood staunchly and the day before on the behalf of the small farmer and the rural individual on the area of 662. He defended that individual up and down the cornfields and through the milo and across the prairie and did it very eloquently. Today he says, that farmer has had all those tax breaks, he got the tax break on the personal tax. The reason, Senator DeCamp, that some people don't pay