

her and welcome her back to the Legislature, Oline Marvel of Hastings, wife of Senator Dick Marvel. Welcome, Oline. Oh, I'm sorry, she is just coming in the back door. Welcome, Oline. We're so happy to see you back here. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President, members of the body, I rise of course to oppose my good friend Senator DeCamp. That comes as no surprise, John, I'm sure, but I've heard a lot of comments and I have to say that Senator Lamb and Senator Schmit have covered a number of points that I wanted to cover. Senator Higgins made a statement that I guess I'm a little offended by, but I don't take it personal. Senator Higgins said that farmers' taxes are going to go down this year. There is no question but they are going to go up I think in many cases based on the formula that is being devised right now in Amendment 4 from what I understand and Senator Miller and Senator Landis and some of the others and Senator Rogers who have been working on that proposal looks as if, and in most cases, it's probably going to go up. LB 662, if that bill should pass, I'm sure in some areas of our state they're going to see some property tax statements rise as well as those school districts are consolidated whenever that bill takes effect. So property taxes for farmers are going to go up, there is no question about that. I'd like to see a bill devised and I don't know if it's possible that we treat everybody as equitably as possible. I spoke to a group of retail merchants yesterday with Senator Schmit. One of the reasons we were there was to talk about the farm crisis and I told that group then that I thought it was vitally important that urban and rural senators alike work together. We've worked together on Amendment 4. We've worked together on many other issues facing this Legislature. I think we can do it again on this issue. I don't like the cap and I guess that bothers me the most. In Johnson Farms we paid \$27,000 in property taxes last year. Under the cap that Senator DeCamp proposes that means that we'll get \$300 back on all of that property that we paid taxes on. That isn't a lot for a farmer. We've got the homestead exemption. That's another \$75. I don't know if that will be funded yet this year, but I guess what I'm saying is in my mind, if you're a farmer, certainly this is not the most lucrative offer that you can look at and even if a \$1,000 cap is put on this bill it's still not going to provide our farm a 10 percent rebate. We're still going to be short a little bit, but we'll live with that. But what I