

that implemented along the lines that are in the best interests of the rural community. It will reflect income producing capability and, in fact, will provide a much lower property tax for the farmer and rancher in this state than would be the case if they went to a market oriented assessment. So they have been provided the sort of tax relief that was called for last year by that amendment and they will be receiving that assistance and that I think is clear. Now, secondly, Mr. President, if I could have....

PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator, I will try to get some order for you. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) And quiet down the conversation level so we can hear the speaker. Go ahead, Senator.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. We have all been through this many times before on the issue but if you don't mind, I know we just got done with Final Reading, but I have a couple more points to make before I finish. So the ag land amendment has been adopted and the rural areas of this state are going to feel the effects of property tax relief, at least a maintenance of the tax relief they have enjoyed for many years. Now we have also provided about ten years ago another major tax relief initiative for the rural area and that was the personal property tax exemption. This provision exempted livestock and farm machinery so that again we provided a major tax break for the rural areas of this state. We also provided in that same personal property tax exemption legislation a tax break for business property, a major relief for the business community. And commercial property, let me shift over to that class of property, besides the personal property tax exemption has enjoyed many other types of exemptions from sales and other types of taxes. They have a utility sales tax exemption that they have enjoyed for many years that has provided millions of dollars of savings to the business community in this state and there is now discussion of trying to change that, but until that actually occurs we can be sure of one thing, they have provided a great benefit in terms of a tax exemption under the sales tax for the utilities. They have also had a new equipment tax that we adopted which I supported several years ago and many other additional sales and other types of tax exemptions that have provided for the business community a tremendous tax advantage over the homeowner in this state. And so what I see is, I see the agricultural sector and I see the business sector with numerous tax advantages that