

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson. SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I rise to support Senator DeCamp's motion. I guess I am one of those that has some great concern with the path that we are about to take on LB 271. I would like to see us in some day, some course of action taken to move us over to an income earning capacity for valuing agricultural property, horticultural property, however, I am also quite concerned about this bill and the amendments brought to us by this special task force that was set up by the Revenue Committee. I think there is a great amount of confusion by many of us, both urban representatives and rural representatives, as far as what the implementation of LB 271 in its current form will do to agricultural property. And I guess I do not question the integrity of the special task force that was set up. I know they worked hard and diligently to come up with a formula that they felt would best represent the wishes of the people that passed Amendment 4, but I'm not willing at this time, personally, to endorse 271 as the complete solution to the problem and in fact I can see that Senator DeCamp is offering us an opportunity to take another year to take a careful look at this issue. We hurried into this session, passed LB 30 so that the valuations would remain the same for another year. The special task force went to work to come up with some solutions to implement Amendment 4 and not all of us are in an agreement with the decision that that task force came up with and the Revenue Committee sent to this floor in LB 271. But I guess I'm naturally maybe a little more cautious than maybe I should be, but I have some concerns that have been registered to me by farmers in my particular district. We are heavily irrigated property out in my particular area of the state and so irrigated property of course is going to be impacted by this issue and by this decision. And I guess I would just say to you that I don't see anything that is going to be seriously impacted or hurt if we take another year to consider our actions, to use the summer and the fall for the purpose of taking a look at this issue and I think becoming a little bit better acquainted with the issue and the impact it may have and for that reason I guess I will be supporting Senator DeCamp's motion. I think it's a wise decision. It's a cautious approach but one that I think is a wise decision because, I don't know, but I haven't really been able to find anyone on this floor who can completely tell me all the ramifications of LB 271 and what it may do to the state and I think there is just a natural amount of confusion with a new direction that we