

Senator Warner. The last time it was done was in 1966. Our history, in dealing with voter initiated constitutional changes, is to respect the thoughtfulness, the work product of the integrity of ballot box democracy, not to tamper with that voter initiative change until we are memorialized by lots of people to effect the change and until the need for change is totally and absolutely apparent. To do otherwise defeats the initiative process and ballot box democracy. So this is one of those occasions when a rush to judgment on our part is totally inappropriate. Senator Pappas asked, what tax advantages do corporations have that family farms do not? Senator Vickers responded to that and I want to make the point that Senator Vickers made and I want to make a point that Senator Nelson would have made, and she did make through the chart that she passed out. Major corporations in our society have scads and scads of nonfarm income. They have lots of nonfarm income. They may purchase farm and ranchland and take advantage of various tax provisions in the tax law to shelter that nonfarm income from federal and state income tax. And let me tell you something, I've been sitting here looking for the quota on this and I can't find it, but I'll find it before the day is out. I read a piece in November, 1985, by a scholar, which said that this country would be better off to repeal the tax on farmers and ranchers because the current sheltering going on for nonfarm and nonranch income through farm and ranch deductions is so great that we are losing money, we are losing money. We would make more money as a country if we just didn't tax farmers and ranchers. We would make more money. That's how bad the tax sheltering is. Initiative 300 deals with that as it says corporations can't own and operate farm and ranchland. Senator DeCamp points out we are unique because our anticorporate farming legislation is in our Constitution and not in our statutes as it is in other states. Yes, we are unique. We are unique because this Legislature uniquely closed the door to collective discourse for 13 years. Constitutions can be changed when the change is made manifest. They are more difficult to change than statute, but they can be changed. If problems develop over the next several years with respect to the application of Initiative 300, then I'm certain that we will respond and so, too, will the voters. Senator DeCamp suggests, finally, that Initiative 300 represents an isolationist policy.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.