

it is always tougher to find it than it is to spend it and I have always thought the Revenue Committee has the toughest job of any member...of any committee in this body. But when Senator Vard Johnson says we had ought to exempt the farmers from all taxes because there are so many exemptions that we would lose less money if we did away with it, I would just like to suggest that it is not the farmer who is getting exempted. It is the nonfarmer who has substantial nonfarm income who uses the loophole designed by politicians, including myself, to crawl through it. They take the excess income earned from other sources and they funnel it off, and that is a lot of what the issue of Initiative 300 is about. And so Senator Vard Johnson neglected to give you the entire story behind the farm shelters. You don't need to shelter nonincome as Tom Vickers said. If we had some income, we don't mind to pay the tax. Number two, the special valuation, I believe it was 271 we passed last year, I ask you to go back and take a look at how many of the rural oriented legislators in this body voted for that bill. Two, two of us voted for that bill. The bill was drafted under the leadership of our good friend, Senator David Landis, and Senator Landis is a very adept member of the committee, but I will tell you something. When Senator Landis drafts a bill which exempts farm property from the normal type of valuation, I want to tell you that Senator Landis is a very gifted legislator, and when the impact of that bill becomes known, many members of rural areas will be wondering just what kind of a favor did we do to the rural areas of this state, not just farmers but the small towns of this state, by the passage of that bill, and I did not vote for it. The personal tax exemption he referred to, let me tell you, I was involved in that. So was Senator Carsten and many others. Thirty-five members signed the bill that passed that bill. Because of some problems with the formula for the return to local subdivisions of the money lost, the bill was passed, LB 816, which pirated \$12 million which should have gone back to rural areas and went back to that local man, that local businessman with his typewriter and the printing press, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, and I will tell you very frankly, and Senator Carsten can tell you more than I can, and Senator Hefner, that LB 816 did not prove to be any benefit to the rural areas. Instead, had we pursued that theory a little farther, the entire \$70 million would have gone back to, basically, the urban areas and the rural areas would have then been forced to raise their real estate taxes which none of us wanted to do, which we never intended