

the constitutional amendment for the exemption of personal property tax, and the bases for that exemption at that time was not an exemption as it is now called. The logic was that there was tremendous inequities in trying to determine value of personal property and there was. And the logic was that it was appropriate that that kind of property be taxed through sales and/or income tax and it was not used as an exemption as it is today. And I suppose I made at least a pledge to myself at that time that that is exactly why we were doing it, that there was greater equity in using the sales or income tax than there was from trying to put a property tax valuation on these kinds of goods, and because of that belief that I had then and still have now, I do not think in good conscience I could vote for further exemption for the sales tax as well, only that was not the concept that the whole exemption of personal property started out with. I would urge that you support the kill motion and I would like to be able to go home and to my constituents, I would like to go home and look at my own farm books and not have that sales tax to pay, but I know as a public responsibility I cannot afford, and I don't mean in the loss of money, I cannot afford the luxury of the position of further deterioration in that tax base, that we have done far too much already. So I would urge that the bill be indefinitely postponed, and that not only do we apply the arguments on this bill but we apply the same arguments on other exemptions that come along because all of them when individually viewed are meritorious.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: But when you view them from the broad concept of what you are doing to the tax structure of the state and the collective loss of revenue, and not so important the collective loss of revenue as the collective transfer to those taxpayers that are left to pay the same cost of government, then there is no justification to further exempt anything, and I think this might be a good place to start that policy from this point forward that exemptions are not the route. If I designed a tax system from scratch, the kind of tax system I would design would be one that is as broad as possible and no exemptions but the rate exceedingly low, because no matter what tax you talk about, there are inequities inherent in that tax, but those inequities are only really harmful as the rate goes up, and as surely as sure can be, the more exemptions you make the