

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, I've already got one more vote Mr. Speaker. The momentum is beginning to build. I just think it is time that we stand on this floor and be honest. You know, the people have been lied to so much they expect it, but politicians should not lie to each other on this floor. We ought to be up front and say this is what we are going to do. We have removed the equal and proportionate clause of the Constitution,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...which means that we are out here to zap anyone who doesn't have the power, doesn't have the lobbying money, doesn't have the ability to get into Lincoln quickly to protect themselves. Under this condition here, it might just be that the people would view with greater discretion the candidates that they would send to this Legislature because they would know that we would be able to do just what we wanted to on taxation. I believe it is a good amendment and I am serious.

SPEAKER BAACK: Anyone else wishing to discuss the amendment? Seeing no one else, Senator Schmit, did you wish to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes. Senator Moore said, Loran, what does it do? I am going to read what the amendment does. It says, "The necessary revenue of the state and its governmental subdivisions shall be raised by taxation in such manner as the Legislature may direct." Is there anyone here who has a question as to what that does? Let me tell you what it does. It says that if we come into this body and we decide that we want to tax real estate, farmland at twice market value, we could do so. If we want to tax it at half market value, we could do so. If we want to tax Senator Moore's farm at twice the market value and Senator Lowell Johnson's at less, we could do so. It gives us complete flexibility. Now there are other risks that are involved, but, ladies and gentlemen, I suggest to you that the amendment which you have on the board, Constitutional Amendment 186, poses greater risk to the populace than does this because we cannot hide behind the pillars and the posts of the Constitution. We take the responsibility for what we do. As grown men and women elected by the people of the State of Nebraska, we ought to have the constitutional fortitude to do that. Ladies and gentlemen, I am going to ask you to support this amendment, because if you do, first of all, for the first