

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, that says it all. It sounds like an interesting idea. When I talked earlier about offering alternatives or at least another choice to voters, why this would be an interesting way to establish that safety net, as Senator Warner says. However, I would be concerned about continuing for at least 10 years some exemptions that got us into the trouble we are in at the present time. It seems to me that since some of these exemptions began back in '77 and '80, it would be fair for all those to terminate in 1994, on January first. Then any exemptions that developed after that, as you know, we had that constitutional amendment on ag land values last year, let that continue for the 10-year period. I offer this amendment only so that rather than every 10 years having all of the exemptions considered at the same time, and having the Legislature, and I guess the lobby and the special interests relax for at least 10 years until that period of time when they all have to come back in and ride the members of the body at the time to continue that special consideration, this would give us a chance to consider them independently and I think because of that do a better job of it. If this amendment were successful, I think it would be in the best interest of the state and, in fact, as so many people have said in the past, good policy for us to do it this way. It would be fair as well to all of those people who have exemptions now to be treated in a fair way. I'd try and answer any questions you might have.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Lynch. We have lights with Senator Beutler, Senator Kristensen, and then Senator Warner but I don't know whether they are to the Lynch amendment to the amendment or to Senator Warner's amendment. So, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I believe I will wait for the Warner amendment. Well, actually, I will speak now, Mr. Speaker. I have some just technical questions to see if I follow how this whole thing is going to work because it is not clear in my mind. Senator Warner, could...Senator Warner, could I ask you a few questions about the mechanics of how this would work? Let's say that we approach the first date of 2002 and all the exemptions are going to come to an end, and we are in the year 2000, the legislative session of the year 2000. Now at that point in time, can we pass a bill extending it to the year 2012, is that the way it would work? Or if we do it in the year 2000, is it extended for 10 years beyond the time we do it?