

February 25, 1992 LB 1120

with the other owners of centrally assessed property. I would assume that they may challenge their taxable position based upon the equal protection clause of the Constitution, of the Federal Constitution, but I believe that it is important that as of this time we find out if we can get something that will get 25 votes. I believe that at least under these provisions we understand more about what we are doing than almost anything else we have done thus far. I'm concerned about the constitutional amendment. I believe it's very, very easy to put out a constitutional amendment that will not be accepted by the people and I think that is important that if we do that, that we do it in a manner that the people will understand. I'm inclined to agree with Senator Schellpeper. I wish that we did not even need the constitutional amendment. There are those and Senator Warner has explained to me why he says we need it. It would appear to me, and I could be wrong, but it would appear to me that if we totally remove personal property from taxation, then there is no mandate from the court or from the equal and proportionate clause of the Constitution to tax personal property equitably because they are not taxed at all. They are exempt from tax and so, therefore, I do not think they need to be included. It's just like the personal, just like the household goods. We have forgotten about household goods and we don't even discuss it anymore, and so if we do not need to address that, then perhaps we shouldn't do it. I do believe that at this time that I will support the Hall amendment and I'm concerned about 3 and 4, but I do not know that Senator Lamb might not be correct, that it might be the fairest way to go. I think that we can perhaps get 25 votes for 1120 and be on our way and, therefore, I'm going to support it and keep my options open for further amendments to this bill or to any other bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Before we proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce a guest of Senator Kristensen from Peking University. We have Professor Ling Bing and he is under the north balcony. Would you please stand and be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Next speaker, Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, the...maybe we should ask the Professor of Economics about our tax problem before he leaves the Chamber here, but with that, the revised amendment and, again, I apologize for not having this out in front of the body. I tried to, at a minimum, print all amendments. There are times when these issues come up that we