

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (See FA561 found on page 1909 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I would like to ask the Clerk, is this one of the amendments of the five that I put up there today, or were there prior ones?

CLERK: This is the first one today.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. This amendment will be found on page 2, and in line 18, I would strike the semicolon, then I would insert this language, "in any county where a majority of those voting, approve such exemption at a regular or special election." So here is what this would read, in line, starting in line 17, to pick it all up, "Property owned by and used exclusively for agricultural and horticultural societies in any county where a majority of those voting, approve such exemption at a regular or special election." The language that this ties into is that found in line 13, where it says the following property shall be exempt from property taxes. This language that I am offering would place a condition on some of these exemptions, and for this exemption, because it is talking about horticultural and agricultural societies would have this proviso. Some of these societies exist in areas that are not strictly rural. When these exemptions are placed in the statutes, they are usually placed there as a result of discussions of a political nature and they do benefit certain selected groups and individuals. There are a number of these with which I disagree entirely, and some of them I would just say that they no longer will have an exemption. For example, I don't think that religious property should just be exempt in the flat way that it is, even though they say when such property, well, they mention some provisos, not used for financial gain or profit to either the owner or user. But religious property is used for financial gain, and there are many aspects of it which derive gain. So on that one, I would offer an amendment just to strike it, to show you that I don't view all of these exemptions the same way. But when it comes to these agricultural or horticultural societies, if they are doing something which is of benefit to the populace of the county as a whole, or if they can persuade enough of the county voters that they are doing something of value and, therefore, should be exempt from