

Senator Warner. Just wanted to make sure that we all knew you were here, Senator Haberman. Senator Witek and Senator Abboud. Senator Warner, would you check in. Senator Witek and Senator Abboud, if you are in the building and can hear this, you are being summoned back to the Chamber. Senator Robak, we cannot locate Senator Witek. Senator Abboud is just checking in. Mr. Clerk, call the roll. The question is, shall the house adjourn until 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

CLERK: (Roll call vote commenced. See pages 1911-12 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Could we have quiet so the Clerk can hear the roll please.

CLERK: (Roll call vote continued.) 5 ayes, 34 nays.

SPEAKER WITHEM: We are not in adjournment. Mr. Clerk. I guess we are back onto the Chambers amendment. Senator Wehrbein. The call is raised. Thank you, Senator Landis, for that plaintive look there, that was well done. The call is raised.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I just want to expand a little bit on what I consider the value of agricultural societies, better known as fair boards: As Senator Schellpeper has said, many of them have a long, long history in Nebraska. Many of them are over 100 years old; 106 is one of the oldest that I have heard, in fact. On the other hand, I do know when Nebraska was first settled, one of the early things about Nebraska was that they started fairs because at that time it was a way to encourage agricultural activities, to promote agricultural activities, promote the settling of Nebraska, and it provided educational opportunities for people to get together, social opportunities for them to get together. And I think that overall they've served a very viable and useful purpose over the last 100 plus years. I think it would be a shame to put some kind of a roadblock in their path at this point by taxing them. I would call them a pseudo government entity. It simply is going to be a matter of changing tax dollars, exchanging tax dollars since most of them are county governed and supported by mill levy, if not all of them, in addition to the funds that they raise. So it would really be taking out of one pocket and putting in another pocket, and it would be, what I'd consider, an exercise in futility. So I would strongly oppose taking away the tax exemption status. I