

(Begin Belt 3)

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with Senator DeCamp in his last hours in desperation to kill a very good and sound bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, are you on or off now? Okay. The question is, are you all through discussing the DeCamp amendment? Senator DeCamp, back to you then for closing. Senator DeCamp is now closing on his amendment.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I won't take a great deal of time. Just try to answer some of the questions that have come up. As Senator Whitney pointed out to Senator Syas, sheep, goats, pigs, such creatures that go on the farm are also in the class of livestock so he needn't worry. They also get the exemption. It's complete, 100% exemption for livestock. The reason why livestock and why not grain, an inventory and all of those things at this time? Livestock in 1974 and 1975 apparently needs the exemption the most. Livestock is the one thing, the one product particularly where you cannot recover any of the personal property tax paid. In other words, it's just a penalty that non-recoverable in any sense of the word. You might have a milk cow there ten years. At the end of the ten years, you've paid more in personal property tax than probably the cow's worth. The other reason, at this late hour and it is the eleventh or twelfth hour, I agree on that, it is. This is the only bill I could find. The only bill the bill drafter could find that would serve the purpose and as I say and have repeated, this does not become operative except and only in case the existing personal property tax law were declared unconstitutional. Now, if that law is declared unconstitutional, then we should do something with that money that was earmarked for personal property tax relief and we should put it where it can do the most good. The reason I selected only livestock then is because the livestock would use about as much as we will have in the next two years for personal property tax relief. It'll cost \$18 million. Well, this year, we have \$12½ million and next year we have \$25 million in the personal property tax fund. That amounts almost exactly to the exemption that livestock would cost for the two years. Why I'm not doing anything personal on Senator Clark's bill? Because I realize we need his bill. His bill deals with school lands and this is one of the things I'm vitally interested in. But remember you're just completing the personal property tax package and putting up a fail safe device in case the other bill is declared unconstitutional. Now, I would remind you that about a month or a month and a half ago in kind of a surprise move, the Supreme Court of Nebraska, ruling on property tax, ruled unconstitutional another bill we had passed in here which has in it the very elements that are claimed to be unconstitutional in this bill. A uniformity. In other words, why should a tractor that a farmer uses to plow his fields be exempt from taxation while this same tractor if it's used by a new car dealer to scrap snow off his lot, is not exempt. There's a problem with classification, non-uniformity. So, the other problem pointed out by a couple of people is that this is election year and I'm only doing this because the people in my district want it. The answer to that is correct. This is election year. The people in my district do want it. And therefore, that's one of the reasons I'm doing it. We're all agreed on that. I'm not trying to kill Senator Clark's bill. I'm trying to get an important thing through this session. And I see no other way to do it than this and it's not going to hurt the bill because it would only, only become