

February 24, 1976

Now the issue before you is this, Senator Burbach said we didn't vote on prohibition. Absolutely correct. Friends, this is an annual appropriation. This is out of your taxpayers dollars. This \$50 million is not something from heaven. This is something they got to pay for. The other little trick is it's a new appropriation every year of an additional seven million bucks. That means that person in Omaha, Senator Moylan, that's another percent on his income tax. That means in Lancaster County, Senator Barnett, that's another penny on his income tax. That's every year. That income tax rate is up four percent because of this. Let's make that clear. We're not talking about some philosophical issue, we're talking about the guts of the tax structure in this state. We're talking about where the money goes.

State government is the taking in, the giving of money. The giving gets to be the tough part, the distribution. We're talking about the major distribution of the general tax fund. The third largest item, and there are some that want me to apologize for bringing in a legitimate discussion on the floor of this Legislature of an expenditure of \$40 million. Well I'll tell you what they can do if they don't think I'm going to bring up that kind of thing, and the people ought to know what it is. That person that lives in Omaha, every week he comes back and he looks at his pay check and he's given 12¢ for personal property tax relief, he ought to know that. If he lives in Millard, or Bellevue, or Lincoln, Nebraska or North Platte, Nebraska or Kearney, Nebraska or Grand Island, Nebraska he's got to know that he is not the recipient. He is what we called the payor and he's paying it out.

I have tried to approach the problem as legitimately as I know how. First of all I've tried to say that the idea of personal property tax relief is not a bad idea and we ought to pursue it. I said first of all forget it all. I'm even more generous than you are Senator Burbach. Don't tax that combine, don't tax those cattle, but don't collect the money and turn it back to somebody else for it.

Secondly I suggested, Senator DeCamp--with your concern and cry for the small businessman and the small farmer I suggested, before that very Revenue Committee that they put \$1,000 maximum tax on this thing. That would take care, and I want the record to show that, that would take care of the small businessman. That would take care of the family farmer. That would not take care of the World Herald. That would not take care of the huge conglomerates. But they're doing pretty well as it is. They got a nice state corporate tax program. I don't want to tax them to death, but at least they ought to pay their share. There is more money going out in personal property tax relief than is coming back in corporate taxes and you ought to know that. You ought to know that.