

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Before we continue with debate, I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the north balcony. Our doctor for today is Dr. Paul Paulman of Omaha. Is Dr. Paulman here? Also, while the Legislature is in session and capable of conducting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 233, LR 234, LB 235 and LR 36. I will now recognize Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Moore, Elmer, Schmit, Schellpeper, Bohlke, Morrissey, Hall and Withem. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Madam President, members of the body, if you want to guarantee that the constitutional amendments fails, put the personal property tax back on. That will guarantee it. If you would like to have it half of a chance to pass, raise the sales tax. It's just that simple. Now, of course, in some of the cities they will put out advertisements and get on the radio and they will scream and holler, it's too high, it's adding taxes. And the Governor will probably say, we don't want to raise taxes. Well, the Governor is already raising taxes. He is supporting a bill to shift the income tax. He shifts some of the big, highest percent to the upper level of people who pay the tax. Now that's not a shift, that's an increase for those people. So the taxes are already being increased. So increase the sales tax. It will also pick up and get the tourists that come through the State of Nebraska. We spend millions and millions and millions of dollars attracting tourists. We even have a sales tax on motel rooms, hotel rooms and et cetera to promote tourism, yet when the tourists go across the state they will pay a lot of money if we increase the sales tax. This is fair. Because they're on vacation, what's another 1 percent? They won't think anything about it. Most of the towns on the interstate, when they go out west, don't have the extra 1...the extra city sales tax. So I would suggest strongly that if you're interested in passing the constitutional amendment, raise the sales tax, don't put the personal property tax back on. Thank you, Mr. President...Madam President, Mrs. President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Madam President and members, you know, one of the things that's been outlined here today that whatever reason if we vote to go the route of exempting all personal property and have the state or somebody make up the difference is actually a vote to increase taxes on the real estate owner,