

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, only to say to the members that LB 1063 was, as I indicated in my opening, put into place based upon old constitutional language and court decisions interpreting that. And we have since, the voters of the State of Nebraska, given to the Legislature new guidelines. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I will be very brief, but I would be remiss as a representative from a rural constituency if I did not rise to strongly support exempting livestock from personal property taxation. Although Senator Wesely did explain the process of finding a solution to the Supreme Court rulings, it was somewhat difficult to me to answer to my rural constituency as to why they were singled out for such a strange system of taxation. Senator Coordsen did say it all in his opening, I would just ask the body to advance LB 961 as a matter of fairness. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would yield to Senator Kristensen first.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, thank you, Senator Warner. I have an obligation I need to attend to and Senator Warner was kind enough to yield me his time. I don't plan to speak a lot on this, but I want to sound some voice of caution. The temptation is great. I'm sure the Legislature may well do this, but this is exactly what we did in the seventies and this is exactly what we're starting to do again. And it's not a matter of is it...is it fair and is it right because we can all justify what's fair and right in our own minds for our own constituents. And do I like personal property? No, I don't particularly like personal property tax. But the Oregon case has nothing to do with what we're talking about this morning. Had we seen the Oregon case five years ago, yes, it would have had a great impact. We wouldn't have had to go through the wars and the pain that this body went through a few years ago. The trouble is our own constitution right now.