

November 8, 1989

advice of tax experts from the public and the private sector. The legislation has the support of the local leaders directly impacted by this situation, the Nebraska League of Municipalities, the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, as well as the Nebraska Farm Bureau. This session may not provide the ultimate solution to the property tax problem. We must await further court rulings and continue to look to the United States Congress for some recognition and relief from a law which at best overreaches its original intent. Nonetheless, these bills I am presenting to you can help prevent the loss of millions of dollars of property tax revenue to local government. The first of these bills redefines real property by statute to specifically include certain property attached to real estate. The second bill clarifies the statutes on refunds so it is clear only certain refunds will be allowed to be collected for specific periods of time. And the third bill to be introduced by Senator Jerome Warner sets a separate classification for railroad rolling stock. There may indeed come a time when Nebraska's property tax system must be changed. Such historic changes in policy, if indeed they become necessary, cannot be made without careful deliberate discussion and consultation with Nebraskans across the state. We have established that kind of process for discussion here in Nebraska. Change should only be made after Nebraskans have had a full opportunity to evaluate and express their opinions on what approach would best serve us in the future. This special session is a step on the road to protecting Nebraska's future and, yes, it will be arduous to determine exactly which road is best, but we must set out to discover the way. M. Scott Peck in his book, The Road Less Traveled, opens his first paragraph with the words, life is difficult. He is absolutely right. It is difficult and for us, as government officials, it is not only difficult but, as Peck goes on to say, it is a series of problems, never ending problems. Long after the political rhetoric of this special session is forgotten, the reality of having found a solution to funding present needs for education and local government will be remembered. I believe with wisdom and dignity and discipline, we can use the disposals...tools at our disposal, of the special session, to provide protection for Nebraska's family as we begin our search together to find the ultimate answer. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your attention. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Governor Orr, for coming and presenting your message to us this morning. Will the committee please