

we could, in effect, try to come up with a complete solution rather than the limited one that is proposed to us. We could come up with maybe a permanent solution instead of the temporary one that is being offered and we could come up with a solution perhaps that would be not subject to court challenge or it would withstand a court challenge, unlike the ones that are being proposed, because I don't believe that they are going to withstand any court challenge. And even if we did not reach a solution in a special session that would be called like this, we would still consider all the possible proposals. We would be meeting here as a group and focusing specifically on the tax issue and not all the other issues that we will get into in the 1990 session, and by this focused attention we will have prepared for the 1990 session by considering the real problems in the personal property tax system and our tax system in general. The Legislature, in my view, is supposed to be one of the co-equal three branches of government. We are supposed to be a deliberative body. We are supposed to come up with solutions. We are supposed to meet together and negotiate and compromise and advise one another and discuss. Senator Weihs expressed it very good today in his prayer. He said, we are supposed to be a body that exhibits collective, creative thought and that's exactly what I believe. That's exactly what I think we should do. But we can't exhibit some kind of collective and creative thought when we are under the restrictions of the special session that has been called. Our hands are tied. We cannot consider the other alternatives and solutions that need to be considered. There seems to be a leadership vacuum in this...in state government and it has existed for the past several years. It seems to me the Nebraska Legislature can exhibit some kind of leadership on this issue. And it seems to me that it is our duty and obligation to fill this leadership vacuum...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...in state government and try to propose solutions and come up with a resolution of this crisis. As most of you know, I have circulated a petition letter. We have obtained the signatures of a number of senators. We need 33 signatures for that petition letter to be successful so that a special session will be called to expand the session to consider all of the alternatives and solutions. I know that a lot of you are undecided and uncertain at this time about whether to take that step. I would ask you to support that