

way. The Department of Revenue gave us those figures. Kind of interesting, it would also then lower your real estate bill by approximately 9 percent because it would add to the tax rolls that much additional valuation. I would suggest that that is a first step. It is a pretty big step, I grant you that, but I will tell you one thing, it is a step in the right direction. Governor Charles Thone used to say it is better to be 10 miles from Hell headed away from it than 100 miles from Hell headed toward it, and I suggest, ladies and gentlemen, you had better turn around and head away from Hell, because you are going to pay for it. I will tell you one more thing. As I said earlier, the people understand. They don't like indecision. They do not like this body not facing the music. They do it every day. They make decisions, sometimes unpopular, sometimes costly, but they make those decisions and they understand them. As I watch some of the other amendments that have been proposed, ladies and gentlemen, we are singling out, we are singling out a number of other entities for punishment. Ladies and gentlemen, the reason the 4-R Act is in existence today is because in various states we zeroed in on the railroads and said, they are big and nobody likes the railroads; everybody likes trains but nobody likes the railroad, let's tax them. So finally the Congress said we are going to tell you guys you can't do it, and they did. Now we have a problem. They said the court overreacted. Maybe so, but why did they do it in the first place? Because Legislatures like ours attempted to do things which we should not have done. I read an amendment here which says we are going to put a sales tax back on the diesel tax (sic) used by railroads. Ladies and gentlemen, with my seven-year-old diesel, I could fill it from Council Bluffs and drive to Colorado and don't have to fill up in the State of Nebraska. Do you not think the railroads won't do the same thing? You know, I would never suggest, I would never suggest that we could put a tax on diesel fuel and put the money in the General Fund and get away with it. I don't think we can here. Maybe that is not where it is going to go. I don't know. Maybe it is earmarked for some other purpose.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But the longer we go, the more punitive we become, and the more ridiculous we look, and the less reason we have to earn the respect of the people who have sent us here. I would much rather, ladies and gentlemen, be sent home for having done the job as I saw it was necessary to do than to stay here forever by vacillation, equivocation, and trying to fool the