

Thursday night so I'll be back down here Friday with my colleagues. I'm going to read something from the Lincoln Star, the editorial page. "No Political Posturing?" is the heavy wording above the editorial. It is from this morning, 11-14-89. "Governor Kay Orr began this 1989 special session with a plea for no political posturing. No political posturing? Come on. Without political posturing, there will be little of interest to talk about during this brief gathering of the 49 state senators. Without political posturing, there is nothing left but tedious technical talk about classification systems and tax refunds and definitions of what is this kind of property and what is that kind of property. The bills the senators eventually will approve are not intrinsically fascinating. They will provide income for a small army of attorneys in the next year or two as they head through the court system, but they don't make for lively dinnertime conversation. The bills will, in the short run, create enough diversion that the state will not have personal property tax apoplexy within the next few months." Do you hear that word, apoplexy? That's from an editor in the newspaper. "The bills may completely solve the personal property tax problem--though the odds are slim. If this technical tinkering doesn't do the trick, Nebraska will have to devise some new tax schemes. The governor and senators have been soliciting advice on that broader issue for a long summer and fall. They've been asking business leaders publicly and privately. The governor even sent her Revenue Department staff on the road to talk to citizens at meetings across the state." And they probably did it to...who is that guy, Willie Nelson? He sang the national anthem at the Republican National Convention and they said he missed a few bars in the song because he didn't miss any bars on the way to the national convention. But anyway, they would go on the road to his song, "On the Road Again". "Everyone agreed that it was a hard question, for sure. And no one seemed to have any sure-fire solutions. But the business and agriculture communities have stepped forward during this special session with some comments, exhibiting classic symptoms of taxpayer sentiment. 'Make sure you don't tax us,' said the agriculture community, fearful that one bill inadvertently would put ag equipment--like center pivot systems--on the tax rolls. Agriculture interests want to make sure they keep their exemptions. And three big business organizations--the state, Omaha and Lincoln Chambers of Commerce--that Chambers has no reference to the one speaking, have decided the present tax system is just fine, thank you. Never mind that more than 240 Nebraska businesses rushed in to