

for our railroads? Yes, there is, undeniably. Secondly, what is their tax base? Where are they going to make up that 12 million bucks? Real estate, undeniably. Third, what is the least taxed form of wealth in this state that is a generalized tax base? Corporate income, undeniably, uncontested in our discussion today. What has happened is a series of hand-wringing apologies, not now. Gosh, they must not have read about it in the Omaha World-Herald, we need a public hearing. They're the weakest chickens on the block and we don't want to bully them around. Now is not the time, maybe as some sort of structural change later on down the line. That later on down the line never comes. That is my experience in the Legislature, that far from being the weakest chicken on the block, this is the biggest, meanest, toughest, and let's leave it in the...the rooster? Shall I use rooster? I was going to use...no, let's use a person. Let's use person here so we don't start using up and down the ecological scale here, and I identify something, person on the block. They never lose. And I'll tell you something, I don't know about you, but if you go home and ask your people, I wonder if your district doesn't have the same reaction my district does. Legislature listens to the big boys and they don't listen to us, to the point that in its most extreme forms they think the fix is in. That's how cynical people are about government. Now, there is a lot who don't think that it's the fix, but they do think this, that we listen to the lobbyists, that we take care of those who can take care of themselves, that we, generally speaking, lend the biggest, broadest ear to the people who have campaign contributions who already are the haves. And you hear that expression, what do you do for the little guy, don't you? Sure you do. I hear it all the time. I try to explain it away. I try to point out the justifications. I...you know, I'm sure I'll be able to say, well, gosh, there wasn't a public hearing and, gosh, I don't know, we've got some surrounding states to worry about and, gosh, I think there's a looming change down the line someday that we may be able to inveigle the corporations to assist us with, and they look back with that blank look and they say, what did you do for the little guy? And at the end of this session what we will have done is to have legitimized and turned into law a \$12 million hole in the personal...I'm sorry, in the personal property tax system which ultimately comes back to local political subdivisions who raise their taxes to do so. And that is what we will have done for the little guy. We will have raised his taxes 12 million bucks, not because we had to. Unlike LB 361, we didn't have to do this. We had a choice, it