

generated from the loss of the personal property tax base. Balderdash. I mean, come on, let's grow up, let's wake up, let's smell the coffee, let's forget about it, because every proposal that's been offered, somebody has come up and said, well, you can't do that, that's going to impact business, that's going to close...board up this business. Senator Hefner, the reason they are boarding businesses up there is because nobody is there to buy the services or buy the goods. People would love to pay the tax out there in those small communities, they'd be happy to pay the tax if there was somebody there to buy the goods, and that's part of the problem. And we're not running them out by a one-time, one-year temporary proposal. You can make that argument on any tax, any issue that's brought in, any proposal that is offered to help solve this problem. I said from day one, opening on LB 829 and the amendments to it, that another alternative we have is to do nothing, and we're getting closer, and closer, and closer to that alternative. Now we got half of the problem, better than half the problem fixed. Whether it's the depreciation surcharge and the corporate income tax, or the...part of the sales tax collection fee, whichever one of those three...two of the three you want to put together, as long as you use the depreciation surcharge, you've got over half the problem solved. But you got to fill that other \$40 million hole. Here's another way to do it. You don't raise taxes, you take away some exemptions. From day one in this Legislature, since we did away with property tax as the base from which the state collected revenue, and implemented sales and income, exemptions have caused the problem. They've created the problem, they'll continue to create the problem. I, as well as most everyone else on the floor, have been a part of that problem in terms of exemptions, because I've got my favorites, as you do, too. And, frankly, these are areas where business pays them, individual pays them. In terms of the sales tax on the legal, accounting, engineering, architectural and printing, do they get passed on? Sure, in many cases they will. Do other taxes that business pay get passed on? Bet your life they do. They figure it into their margin of profit. They figure all that stuff up, and then they decide what they can sell their product or their service for. And you and I pay it when we walk in the door and say, I want one of those, or I want you to do this for me. You can't argue that we don't...that it doesn't work that way in virtually every tax that we impose. The fact of the matter is do we now say we're going to take a look at some of the exemptions that caused the problems, in my opinion, in the sales tax area, because it's just as littered as personal