

February 24, 1992 LB 1120

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. Many of the things that I was going to say have been said by Senator Johnson and Senator Haberman. I will just reinforce what they have been saying is that, without exception, the man on the street, whether he lives in a town or out in the country in my district, says the personal property tax is an unfair tax, we shouldn't be paying tax on personal property. The reporting rate is only about 20 to 25 percent. It just is an unworkable tax. I have spent some time visiting with a number of attorneys, both in Lincoln and in the district, and they all are of the opinion that if we remove all personal property from the tax rolls, a constitutional amendment is not necessary, is not necessary. And I think that's shared by many...a good many of us here on the floor. We can't be absolutely sure but we feel reasonably sure. Therefore, it is the easiest, it is the best, it is the fairest to exempt all personal property, provide the revenue in 1120 through this or some mechanism and proceed. And I will support Senator Johnson's amendment. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Madam President and members, I, too, rise to support Senator Rod Johnson's amendment to increase the sales tax. I commend Senator Johnson for getting it before us quicker than I thought maybe it would come. I...I like this proposal because it repeals everything from the property tax rolls and, as numerous senators have said, and I'm saying it and I've had...talked to a lot of attorneys too and I sent out the constitutional amendment that would appear on the ballot out to a number of people in my district and asked them to respond with how they interpreted it. And they don't understand it and I've had some learned people that I've sent it to and they question and they say too, if you take it off, we don't think you need a constitutional amendment. The 3-R Committee went around the state and there was two things that I think they heard that was in the paper and what I heard when I attended the one in Norfolk, Nebraska. The number one thing was cut the darn spending down here, and the other was if you have to have any money, raise the sales and income or combination or one or the other and this will raise the amount of money we need. I think this is one of the most fairest, understandable solutions but there are some on this floor want to complicate the mess, it