

February 24, 1992 LB 1120

odds of being successful at that point with a constitutional amendment, I think, is going to become less and less until we will find the worst of all possible solutions, meaning the one that is in effect, and that's where we are now with all personal property tax on. I'm amazed, from time to time, on some of the mail and contacts and calls where people state why don't we quit talking about putting personal property tax back on and why are we trying to amend the Constitution? Why don't we just leave it like it is and not tax personal property? Well, folks, that's not how it is. From time to time, I'm called and I've been told that we're threatening something. Well, it's not a threat to explain what the situation is and the situation is, as all of you well know, that it's on now. I do not believe, I do not believe that you will be successful at an election on a constitutional amendment by shifting 90 to 100 million dollars of business tax to sales tax and shifting that generally to the population as a whole, the bulk of which is going to be paid by individuals. I simply do not believe that is going to be successful. In fact, it's too big a gamble for me. I understand taking risk but this is more like shooting craps if that's what you think will happen. And taking risk is a normal business decision, a normal government decision, from time to time, to seek change, but when the results are so obvious then I find it inconceivable...

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...that the citizens of this state will approve a constitutional amendment going the route that some of you are proposing. There's another issue that is getting no attention yet at this point, but all one has to do is look at the numbers that are coming out of the fiscal office and for the Appropriations Committee to realize what kind of a situation we're going to be in in two years, during the next budget cycle. The sizeable reductions that are going to occur, and they're going to occur at a level that you cannot explain them away with waste, fraud and abuse, and you're going to be looking at a need to do something with a tax structure again on the revenue side and, to the extent that you use up those options on this issue, it's simply going to complicate...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.