

February 24, 1992 LB 1120

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, thank you, Senator Will, for the time. I would like to talk just a little bit about some of the things that were said earlier. I think it was Senator Withem that pointed out that there was no intellectual honesty with regard to this issue if it didn't include motor vehicles. And, just for the record, I would like to point out that there were three bills in committee that dealt with the issue of removing personal property tax from motor vehicles, one of which I introduced, specifically to be a companion proposal to 1120. Senator Conway introduced a bill. I think Senator Cudaback introduced a bill as well. Senator Conway's bill was in a, I think, a better form. It was amended to include some of the provisions in my proposal and it was advanced out of the Revenue Committee and it's out on the floor on General File. It will be debated in some form or another, probably as an amendment to 1120 to come. Intellectual honesty is retained. The issue of whether or not we break our promises, I guess, you know, what binds this Legislature to anything next year? What binds the 1995 Legislature to anything? What dictates whether we keep our promises more than anything as it relates to state aid is the revenue picture. That's what keeps our promises for us if we're going to look at that. The other thing is that we keep coming back to that all the time, that we did not keep our promise to local government. At the time that personal property was exempted, what did the Legislature do? The Legislature gave the local entities, at least the cities, the League of Municipalities, those that make up a great portion of the revenue over and above the school districts, we gave them the local option sales tax. And, without exception, when they came before the Revenue Committee this year and they were asked, okay, we'll give you back your property tax base but we're going to take back that sales tax base that we give you. No, no, no, no, don't do that to us, we want that sales tax base. Why? For this exact reason that it's in 1120, because it's that dynamic base. It generates revenue. They know, as utilizers of personal property, that it doesn't create the kind of revenue they need or want and when push comes to shove and when they're asked in committee, what do you want? They want the sales tax and they know that...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...in 1120 their sales tax base is increased.