

SENATOR HALL: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Senator Elmer, I...clearly I believe that the discussion needs to continue about the tax system in Nebraska. It is far from perfect. The 3-R Committee, unfortunately, did not have the time necessary to do the thorough examination...

SENATOR WARNER: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...thorough examination that was necessary to talk about these kinds of proposals. We had to focus our attention on the personal property tax problem. I would say, yes, I firmly believe that there needs to be continued examination, and this would clearly be justified as part of that process.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Hall. And I'll wait til closing to continue the rest of my comments. Thank you.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'd just like to thank Senator Elmer for bringing this proposal to us today. I think it's intriguing. I think that it deserves further study, in fact some of the things I'm going to say now are probably repetitive of the conversation you just had with Senator Hall. I think that an idea like this is perhaps analogous to a good cup of coffee, Senator, that it needs to percolate long enough in order for us to get that good cup of coffee. We can't...we can't shorten the time. And I would encourage the Revenue Committee to continue processing this. Another thing that I'd like to say with regard to this idea, it's...one of the things about this whole tax crisis that perhaps is most interesting is the fact that some of these ideas are coming from the grassroots level. And I had thought for quite a period of time that our tax system needed to be looked at in the larger picture, and that we needed to make some major changes. But I thought, maybe mistakenly, that we needed an actual crisis to get us to make some of those major changes. And perhaps that thinking was wrong. Perhaps, because we are in crisis, we can't throw out the horse and buggy type of tax system that Senator Schmit suggested. Perhaps we can't make that major change right now, we need to solve the crisis. But perhaps with time, and perhaps with that grassroots interest and activity we can take a look at the larger picture. I'd also