

March 5, 1992

LB 1063, 1120

proposal to do something very positive. It is too bad we won't have an opportunity, and it is unfortunate that those that did have the time or were given the charge...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...of taking the time to understand did not spend enough time on this kind of an alternative which would have started us off in the direction of being fair to everybody, and not just trying to protect some that already have some exemptions, possibly at the great expense of all of those who are already paying and have always paid 100 percent of their fair share. So, Owen, I am going to vote for you. It might be just you and me but I think it is a good idea.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, I will recognize Senator Elmer for closing.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. I sincerely appreciate everyone here who has gotten up to speak to this particular idea. I think it has a good deal of support in your hearts. You like the thought and it intrigues you. Don't let that go away because what we are doing, either whether it is LB 1120 or 1063, we are just putting patches over Band-Aids that are on top of the barb wire on the old Model T. And that old Model T may struggle along another year or two, but, eventually, there is going to be too much demanded of property. What we are doing in 1063 now is retrogressive. It is becoming more archaic than it has been in our tax system. We need to be able to tax those people who benefit from the opportunity to do business in our state, and not own very much property in relation to that tremendous volume of business. This recognizes that. Senator Wehrbein, you asked me a question and I promised I'd answer it in closing. You say you make a sale of several cattle directly to your neighbor, or corn, or grain, whatever. Well, if you think you can get away from not reporting that to the Internal Revenue Service, you will avoid this tax too, because this is based directly on the top line of your income tax calculations and worksheets. You add everything up you have sold during the year and that is your gross receipts and that is what you'd pay on. And this can only work if there are no exemptions, and can only work if the tax is very small, because if you start jacking it up too much, then goods become out of line with everything...with all the states that surround us, and I