

from all personal property. I made those statements not once, or twice but dozens if not hundreds of times. I put it in my newsletter as I told one of the reporters, who asked me a question this morning, he had never spoken to me before. It seems just a wee bit strange to me, and it ought to to the rest of you, that the introducer of the bill, which removed the tax 15 years ago, was never asked about his opinion relative to this mess in which we find ourselves, not even to the extent that I was held responsible for having created it. There was such a deliberate effort to block out any other kinds of activity that no one ever said, the Governor never said it, no legis...very few legislators ever mentioned it, but they might have, I wouldn't say no one did, but I never saw it discussed in the press as a viable option. And, Senator, that is the greatest travesty of all because time, after time, after time, as I traveled across this state, and I traveled thousands of miles, people would ask me, why don't you just take it all off and raise the revenue issue, if you must raise more revenue from sales tax and income tax, and proceed in the direction in which you started out. But when responsible people raised that proposal at public hearings, I don't think I ever saw that in the newspaper. I heard it as testimony. I heard it in comments. I watched people write it out, but it was never, ever printed. There was almost a total news blackout of this situation. Now someone says you farmers can be the big losers in this. If it all goes back on, farmers will pay more. Senator, that is true. We may pay more. Our real estate taxes should be a little less, but the difference is that it will be a consistent uniform policy. It will not be arbitrary, discriminatory, capricious, and pointed against one particular group. I want you to know this, and I think those of you who have served with me know this, that is every one of you, I would argue just as vehemently if this tax were going to be improperly applied to some other aspect of business, and it is being improperly applied to business. No one talks about that. The businessman who has been in business for 30, 40 years has his office equipment paid for. He is not going to pay much tax. The new struggling business is going to be paying that tax. Ladies and gentlemen, have you ever started a business? Have you ever gone down to the bank and put everything you had on the line...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and borrowed hundreds of thousands of