

March 11, 1992

LB 1063

LR 219

will chart the course of taxation in Nebraska for the next 25 to 50 years and for those who say we take too long on an issue of this magnitude, they're either insensitive, uninformed or don't care. What we do today will affect the lives, the homes, the families, the fortunes, the businesses of Nebraska not for tomorrow or the next day or next year, but for many years and generations to come. We cannot take too long if we can arrive at the proper decision. I've lost many times on this floor and I will lose again, but I would hope that in the losing that sometimes a point might be made that there are those out there who need to be heard and who need to be represented. We have a tendency today to have what we call gang voting and I'll have more to say about that at some future time and I've been a part of that in the past and it's a very comfortable feeling to know you've got the votes regardless of the arguments, it's full speed ahead but that is not always the best way to secure passage of an amendment or a bill. And I would hope that no one is intimidated from making a point on this floor. I regret that far too few of the members have participated in the debate. I know that does not reflect lack of interest, but it is rather intimidating from time to time to stand on this floor and expose ourselves to criticism from both within and without, but we are here, ladies and gentlemen, to accomplish a purpose, not to protect ourselves from criticism or to hide behind anonymity. So I would hope that if there is any...that we do not vote to cut off debate but that we continue to discuss the bill if necessary and I want just, in the event we do cut off debate, I want to say this. I believe that 219CA in its form at the present time is not a desirable amendment to be placed upon the ballot. I believe that if it is placed upon the ballot, the consequences will not be good. I believe combined with LB 1063, the consequences will be a major step backward for the State of Nebraska. It will have a disastrous impact upon not only agriculture, industry and individuals in this state and that ought to be avoided if at all possible. I respect those of you who support the amendment and support the bill. You have dedicated many hours toward reaching the goal that you have achieved at this time, but if the end result does not achieve the 40 votes, then we are back to the drawing board. One more word of caution, and I have this to say to my friends who have told me, I don't like it, but I'm afraid of the consequences. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the consequences, if you vote against your convictions are far more severe than if you vote the easy way. If you vote your convictions you can live with yourself regardless of what happens. If you vote someone else's