

April 3, 1992

LB 719A, 1063
LR 219

SENATOR WARNER: But we have been down that road the last four or five years, and I'd tell you, in my opinion, if you are successful in defeating CA 1 with a lot of allegations that are simply not accurate, that then the price that this economy will pay in this state is going to be immense.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time. Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Madam Chair and members, I kept most of the clippings that were printed relative to the LR 219 and to LB 1063, and all of the promises that were made, and the speculation that took place, and I do not have them here at this time. I do not intend to begin to quote from them, but I can tell you very bluntly that I went to dozens of meetings where I was told that this is the way you get the railroads. And I said you are not going to get the railroads, and I don't know now whether a deal has been made or not, but I have been told that the railroads are going to pay 4.25 million under this proposal. I do not know if this Legislature can delegate to the tax commissioner of this state the ability to negotiate the tax rates for the railroads. I don't know if you can do that. I would suggest that if they do, that Senator Scott Moore is on the right track, that there will be other entities, namely, the telephones and pipelines, that will be in asking for the same perk. I don't make any bones about where I stand on LR 219. I hope it is defeated because it is not equitable. And, Senator Warner, you may be right, the votes may be here and the Governor may be correct that he will not call us back, and there will not be another opportunity to add it all on or all off. If that is it, then sobeit. At least you won't have to wear a band around the cow's neck to know if it is taxed or not. You going to know it was taxed, and I would suggest, you know I have watched this Legislature run for cover so many times in the last five years, I would suggest that if that happens that there will be those in the Omaha area who will come down here and say, wait a minute, we are not going to start paying taxes on our inventory. That means those farmers are going to escape, well, we will find some other way, and that is why I opposed, and Senator Warner opposed, I think, the proposal to tax farmland differently than ag land, because I have a hunch they are going to nail us there, and I have said it before on this floor, I would accept full reimposition of the tax on personal property, if I had the power and the ability to repeal the inequitable, the inequitable taxes that are going to be assessed under that farmland amendment