

July 8, 1991

the following senators please advise the Governor and escort him to the Chambers. Senator Ardyce Bohlke, Senator Elroy Hefner, Senator Ron Withem, Senator Spence Morrissey and Senator LaVon Crosby. Thank you. We will stand at ease. And, senators, the Governor is in his office.

EASE

PRESIDENT MOUL: Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Madam President, your committee escorting the Governor of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, the Governor of the State of Nebraska, E. Benjamin Nelson.

GOVERNOR NELSON: Madam President, Mr. Speaker, members of the Nebraska Legislature, let me say that I am pleased to be here and I hope that some of you are, if not everyone. I have called the Legislature back into special session to give us all the opportunity to take essential action to create a stable and fair property tax system in Nebraska while avoiding the possible collapse of the local revenue base. This morning I visited Nebraskans at work in Papillion and Omaha at a small car dealership, a small manufacturing plant and a very popular restaurant. Tomorrow I will visit Nebraskans at work in Wayne, McCook, North Platte, Lexington and Falls City. I'm making these visits because this tax crisis is more than a paper problem. It affects the quality of life in Nebraska. It affects people. It affects our people, Nebraskans. It affects our jobs. Ninety-five percent of Nebraskans are employed in establishments with 50 or fewer employees and the more than 80,000 Nebraskans engaged in production agriculture are on over 60,000 family farms and ranches. It affects our communities and their ability to provide schools, streets, public safety and other essential services. It affects our way of life as one Nebraska. The men and women at Dick Grube Chrysler-Plymouth in Papillion, Majors Plastics and the Bohemian Cafe in Omaha, that I met this morning, are typical of the working people whose lives are affected by this crisis before us. Bill Beerline, the parts manager at Grube, wanted to bet me \$5.00 that the special interests out in the hallway would dictate tax policy in Nebraska. I declined the bet, more out of prudence than because of my fear that that would happen. Mercedes, at the Bohemian Cafe, told me that she wanted a tax system in Nebraska that