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really applied to one word, "fairness". And Tim McConnell, the President of Majors, told me that whatever we did with taxes in Nebraska we had to be careful that we didn't put taxes on business inventory because he couldn't compete, if he continued to operate in the State of Nebraska, he couldn't compete with neighboring states' businesses which do not do so. So we really do need a system that is predictable and responsible as well as fair and equitable. Big businesses have incentive programs and ways of managing their tax load but we need to develop a system that treats small businesses, family farms, family agriculture and middle income Nebraskans fairly. This is one Nebraska and we need a system that recognizes both our differences but creates an opportunity where everyone carries an equitable share of the tax burden. The Nebraskans who work at Great Plains Bottlers in North Platte, which I will visit tomorrow, feel the burden their property tax...their company faces by paying property taxes on equipment in 37 counties in Nebraska, taxes from which the railroads and pipeline companies have sought relief through court action. We need to act now to give the people of Nebraska the opportunity to vote on a proposal that treats all property fairly, then we need to design a system to do just that. And the 3-R Committee is in an excellent position to be able to provide that kind of leadership. Some, like the Lincoln Star in today's editorial, have suggested waiting to address the problem. The problem has been put off too long already. Waiting will only cause more confusion and invite further court involvement in the public policy process. The courts have already brought uncertainty to the personal property tax base and further legal action will simply tie our hands in shaping a system that treats middle income Nebraskans, small business and family farms fairly and to make sure big businesses likewise pay their fair share. We cannot wait until a crisis transforms Nebraska into a New York, Maine or Connecticut of the plains. Waiting will do nothing more than to protect...will do nothing more to protect middle income Nebraskans across our state in the communities I have mentioned, and on the family farms and the ranches that brought the earliest settlers to our state. Tax policy should be set here in this room, not in the courts. We, in this room, were elected by our fellow Nebraskans to tackle the challenges facing our state and to make public policy, not to wait until the courts step in to do the jobs...to do the job for us. It's our people who elected us who need to look us in the eye and say, I like what you did or I don't like what you did. They can't do that to a faceless court system to which they have no redress other than more court action. We