

the issue that is before us, not simply honing in on we have got a status quo upset, let's go back to the status quo. I think this is our opportunity to strike while the iron is hot, to reforge the sort of tax system we have in this state, to consider things that perhaps we wish we would have had a chance to consider. Never thought we would have that chance again, but now that the court has acted and ruled as they have, we have a renewed effort, a renewed opportunity to reexamine and in terms of new information our tax system, the burdens of our tax system, the fairness of our tax system, the equity of our tax system. This is that opportunity. It has come back to us and given us that chance that we didn't think we would ever have once again to reexamine these various issues, and I am not saying just on the personal property side but the intangible side, and on homestead exemptions, and on other types of tax issues that we just haven't had I think the sort of will or desire, spark, to look at for a long, long time. Well, it is here. The chance has come. Let's not miss that opportunity. And, Senator Warner, you criticized me a little bit for the information I distributed. I never said that the information I gave is going to give you a case by case example of what will happen. Not at all, it is, in fact, statewide information. It is the best information we can have, it came out of the Fiscal Office, and I think in terms of what we are able to pull together, it is the best effort to give us some sense of direction. Obviously, we all knew that homeowner taxes would go down, that commercial taxes would go up, and ag taxes would go up. We knew that the shift would occur. We've seen previous information in the papers that that shift would be more like 14 or 15 percent. The recalculated figures are closer to 19 plus percent. Statewide it will be different from Lincoln and Omaha. Who knows exactly what those figures will be, depending on what taxing district you are talking about. All I am saying is, statewide we are talking about a significant shift in taxes, a shift worth talking about, a shift that already occurred some 20 years ago but is now being revisited, and ought to be thus renewed and reviewed in the way that we haven't done for the past two decades. And so I think it is significant to know exactly what we are talking about. Let me also indicate for those of you who are interpreting my remarks to suggest that my ultimate goal is to put back all the personal property tax exemptions, put them back on the tax rolls, I also passed out for you the comparison of the different states. It shows that by and large many states followed the example that we had, taxing business equipment but not taxing business inventory,