

this weekend, and we were talking about the property taxes that they pay in Illinois. She lives in Wheaton, and I asked her what her property taxes were, and they are \$10,000. She pays \$10,000 a year on her house, so it's probably \$3,000 a year here. So, I mean. let's sit down and think about that, too. And I don't know what we are so afraid of with this LR 1. What are we afraid of? What are we afraid of here? Why don't we let the people decide? All we have to do is just change one little thing, taxes shall be levied by valuation or otherwise. And that means that let it up to the people, and the Legislature can decide. Personal property taxes stays in the counties anyway. It doesn't go to the state. It doesn't have anything to do with the state. All the taxes that Omaha gets, all their personal property taxes, they are trying to protect the homeowners for with the personal property taxes stays right down there. It doesn't help my county one bit. Why don't we pass a constitutional amendment that they can tax whatever they want to tax, and we will exempt what we want to exempt, and maybe their businesses will move out in the rural area, and then we will have some economic development that way. And Senator Wesely is talking about tax shifts, well, the last tax shift I can remember was nothing but a tax increase. We have heard a lot about Nebraska turning into the Buffalo Commons, and I believe if we don't do something soon, we will turn out into Buffalo Commons, but it ends out there, I think, at Senator Nelson's county. I think I live closer to Lincoln and Omaha, so I am kind of safe, and I think if we don't do something soon, I think that we will see Nebraska turn into a rural Appalachia. And I think it is time that we acted, we act now, and I support LR 1. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Next speaker, Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I support LR 1. I support the committee amendment, but we are talking about a very complex issue. The Revenue Committee has had a number of legal people talk to us and it seems like the more we hear the more confused we get. But I just believe that putting livestock, farm machinery, inventory on the tax rolls could cause a severe recession in our state. Things are going pretty good now. Things are going pretty good in Nebraska, but most of the states surrounding us like Iowa and South Dakota and Kansas, at least, do not have a personal property tax. And so it is going to put our farmers, it is going to put our