

July 17, 1991

LB 6
LR 1

I know I, for one, will certainly not vote for LB 6 if LR 1 doesn't pass. And I guess I could assume the title of irresponsibility there because in some ways I think if in a court case LB 6 is somewhat of a responsible action. On the other hand, I guess I am of the opinion that the reason I support LB 6 is I do that in tandem with LR 1, and so to try to achieve one of my major goals this special session is to try to set in motion for the state to try and bring some finality to this property tax situation that has been up in the air probably for 20 years in many ways, but certainly since 1986 and '87, when we first start getting the federally mandated exemptions, and I think this body needs to do something, and maybe we don't need to do something. But I guess if you really want to try and put some things to rest, you do need to do something this year, and that is why, you know, two weeks ago, I agreed with Senator Withem to try and give the voters a choice. I think the combination of LB 6 and LR 1 embodies that same concept. On the other hands, if LR 1 doesn't pass, I am not going to sit here and hang myself and vote for LB 6. The reason I say that is that while there is certainly a chance as Senator Schmit has "eloquated" on this floor that maybe 829 survives a constitutional amendment. I guess the attitude is this, that if you don't pass LB 6, you will have a constitutional amendment, then you might as well do the whole thing and acquiesce to the courts and just see what happens because you will not give the people in the state the option of giving us the tools back. I know many people don't think the court has taken those tools away from us. Unfortunately, I disagree. I think that if you pass LR 1 and the people vote on it, LB 6, you know, it makes sense to try and make...bring this to a finality yet this year. But if you don't pass LR 1, I am not going to vote for LB 6. You can call me irresponsible, you can call me anything you want, but the fact is that if we are of the opinion we are just going to sit here and let the courts make our tax policy for us, then let's do it. And, actually, in some ways if you do that, you know, if you want to keep business inventory exemption, maybe you can tie it up in the courts two or three years and maybe, you know, eventually you will find something will happen in the Legislature, or farm machinery or something like that, or grain inventory, or livestock. It is all those things that, you know, you just don't automatically acquiesce to the court right now, you drag it out for a couple of years, and make the attorneys in this state a lot of money, I guess if that is what you want to do. I think that is what we are doing if we do nothing. The biggest benefactor is probably the legal