

had set their budgets accordingly on the amount of dollars that they would be receiving, were going to be in trouble. I took it upon myself to start negotiating when Mr. Kenny Lay, the chief executive officer of Enron, and he just flat said, Dennis, I'm afraid if I pay those taxes I'll never get them back. I said, I'll do everything I can to see that you get those dollars back, but you have to pay your taxes. I do, the people in my district do, the people of the State of Nebraska have to pay their taxes, if they don't they can lose their property.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: He was not intimidated. So I introduced the bill which Senator Schmit thought was one of the best pieces of legislation that's ever come before this body, isn't that correct, Senator Schmit,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...which made it a Class IV felony not to pay your personal property taxes. That bill was passed unanimously, and amazingly Enron payed their taxes. And it does illustrate some times you have to go to the maximum. Some times you have to intimidate in order to get people convinced that we're serious, and a \$500 fine is not serious to these corporations, that's nothing. And this basically is the story.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Byars. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Kristensen and Senator Schellpeper. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I listened to Senator Byars' story, and I guess that's probably true. As a practical matter I don't think this is a big debate. I think we've got more important things to debate in terms of penalties and so on. As a practical matter 92 of the counties are not going to enforce the penalties, and they aren't going to happen, you aren't going to threaten people with criminal activity. You're going to have mass amounts of people who are not going to be able to comply, or who won't comply because you're still going to have to prove intent, you're going to have to prove they willfully intended not to report the property, and they'll come in with the ignorance,