

July 17, 1991

LB 6
LR 4

districts. It is my sincere conviction Mr. Bill Peters, one of the former Tax Commissioners, Don Adams from the Revenue Department concur with me that LB 829, the exemptions in 829 are constitutional, they think so. If that is true, then the status we are in right now is not to be concerned. If it is challenged, we are several years down the road from knowing just exactly what is the status of 829. Senator Crosby, Senator Schimek, many of you have expressed concern about moving too fast. Ladies and gentlemen, we have, from time to time, made errors. Most of the time we make those errors because we do move too fast, because we do not have all of the information. I have offered several solutions, this is one of them. The solution which Senator Carson Rogers and I offered during the regular session, which would reimpose all of the tax, have a broad base and a low levy was another one, the solution of LR 4CA, which would give this Legislature the complete authority...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to raise the revenues necessary, by whatever means we devise, expresses my confidence in this Legislature and succeeding Legislatures that we will treat people fairly, if we do not have pillars and posts to hide behind, if we do not have constitutional prohibitions which in effect give us an excuse or an alibi to evade and avoid our responsibility. I was one of those who did not support amendment one because I did not want to strike the equal and proportionate clause of the Constitution relative to ag land. There are those who say we must not strike the equal and proportionate clause relative to real property. We can't trust you legislators with that responsibility. Ladies and gentlemen, we have done so as it relates to 55 million acres of land. There is no equal and proportionate clause anymore on rural real estate, we can do what we want to. Tax it twice the market value, three times, then can we not be trusted to tax commercial property the same way? I think we can. The point I'm trying to make is this, and I want to come back to what Fred Seaton used to say time, after time as he spoke across the State of Nebraska, never underestimate the intelligence of the Nebraska people.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Never overestimate the extent of their information. Ladies and gentlemen, we need as much information