

July 17, 1991

LB 6

LR 1

sort of ridicules some of these solutions which I have offered. I will tell you one thing, Senator Moore, we both know that regardless of what duck you pick up at the county fair, you're going to get a loser. There's not going to be any worthwhile prize. And that is what you're doing in the situation with LB 6, and I think LR 1, you're not going to win. It's a situation which I think ought to be discussed very vividly on this floor. Very casually we just seem to pass things by. Why was the session called? The Governor called a special session of the Legislature because we were told, time and again, that the real estate tax base of this state was in jeopardy. Senator Moore, you totally misread why the court came rushing back with their opinion. They said to Senator Moore and Governor Nelson, you're incorrect. The real estate tax base of this state is not in jeopardy, that's what the message was. Now I went to country school, didn't do too bad out there, got a load of about 30 kids in the class, in school we got along pretty well. I read the opinion that way. It said the real estate tax base of this state is not in jeopardy. They gave us an interstate, they gave us an interstate, and you want to follow some back trail through the woods. Now, again, you say we want to get the same place. I prefer to travel the interstate to Seward, Nebraska and take 15 north to get to Bellwood. You want to travel out on 34, travel on the back roads and the gravel roads, fine, we'll both get there. You have, I think, a little more time consumed and I think a little more jeopardy following that trail. I think you have to remember, again, that we are moving in a direction, and I don't think anyone can answer that question, but what percentage of taxpayers in this state pay personal property tax? Not very many, maybe 10 percent, 15 percent, probably no more than that. Now the question I want to ask those rural senators that have voted for the adoption of the Hall amendment to LB 6, do you want to go back to your constituents, who are rural, and say, we know that 100 percent of the farmers out here are going to pay personal tax, and therefore...but we've got a chance. If the public decides to vote for LR 1, then you come back and you run the gauntlet with the Legislature, and we may decide to exempt you. That's double jeopardy, ladies and gentlemen, double jeopardy of the worst kind, because first of all eight out of ten, I would guess, of the voters don't pay personal taxes. And so when you start to talk about exemptions, today I'm afraid to stop at a bar or a coffee shop because someone berates me because of exemptions under 775, even though I didn't vote for it. Exemption is a bad word to the taxpayer of the State of Nebraska. And this body has much more confidence in