

July 17, 1991

LB 6

LR 1

through 9, farm machinery, grain, livestock, and business inventory, basically it adheres to the concept of the court to date, because it only said those things are unconstitutional. I would probably be of the opinion if we do nothing, don't change the Constitution, the other sections are soon to come, I will agree with that but, at the time being, to operate strictly in the confines of what the court has said, you need to just stay with that and don't get into the 775 debate now even though that would be...you know, I would never...that was always the worst part of LB 775, and Senator Hall and I will agree on that, and that was the part of 775 that about made me choke when I voted for it, even though I did, it was those personal property tax exemptions. But, nevertheless, what we're trying to outline in a scenario like this is that if you pass LB 6, as amended, what will happen now is that if the constitu...and you pass LR 1, if the constitutional amendment is successful, what happens is 829 stays in effect for tax year '91 and then January 1, '92 the big four go back on the tax rolls. And the purpose behind that is that Senator Hall and Senator Withem and others have sat here and said if you just pass the constitutional amendment and you return to the status quo, the status quo will indeed occur and we will never debate restructuring our tax system. What this would do is say that, yes, we are going to look at that, we are going to focus on the 3R Committee that Senator Hall is Chairman of. We are going to see...several people have said they want to wait and see what that does. As a matter of fact, you can tell the people you're not just protecting the status quo by voting for LR 1, you're voting to give the Legislature the tools and the Legislature will come back next year and implement a comprehensive tax policy, hopefully. And to make sure that we do do that, we don't...we put the burden on those with exemptions to get votes to renew those exemptions. I think that's the fairer thing to do, I guess. I mean, if I didn't...obviously, if we had 40 votes without that, I wouldn't advocate it. But, on the other hand, I certainly believe that it ties into many of the comments and Senator Lindsay and Senator Will and Senator Hartnett have said we don't want to lose this opportunity to look at the whole tax structure. And so if the constitutional amendment...even if the constitutional amendment does pass in tax year '92, those exemptions, the big four, are repealed, then we have to deal with them. Now what happens if the constitutional amendment fails? Well, obviously, you...with this amendment, you do just exactly what the...at least in my opinion, what the court told you you had to do and that was, for the time being, tax the big four. Those are the