

without giving the people an opportunity to vote, I think, is wrong, because I think it would be a disaster to rural Nebraska. We have some farmers out there that are barely making it. If they've got to pay property taxes on their farm machinery, livestock and inventory, it will be the end of them, it will be the straw that broke the camel's back. And I certainly am not for that. We've had a hot...we've had some hot days lately, the last week or so, and it's picked a lot of bushels of corn. And I hope and pray that we get some rain so that we will have a fairly decent corn crop. I feel that, if we put personal property back on the tax rolls, it will cause a severe recession in our state. And at the present time things are going pretty good in our state. Things are going pretty good compared to other states that are having a recession, that are having high employment...unemployment rates. But farmers and small businessmen, industries have to invest a lot in personal property to make a living. The average farmer has to have a huge investment to make a living. That small businessman, up and down main street, he has to have a lot of money invested in personal property to make a living, and then we want to tax that. Now Senator Beutler was saying something about, well, you know we should have 33 votes on the veto. Well, I don't agree with that. But Senator Beutler doesn't have to have much personal property to make a living, he doesn't need near as much as a farmer or a small businessman, so I know where he's coming from. But one of the problems that we do have, and I think Senator Moore hit on that, we're spending too much money for government. I know we're spending too much on the state level, but it's hard to slow it down. And I know that local government is spending too much money.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: We need to tighten our purse strings, and that would certainly help. And we need to become less reliant on property taxes. I've always thought that personal property tax was an unfair tax, because one of the reasons is it's a liars tax. Those that are honest enough to assess it will be paying, and those that are dishonest won't. And so I just urge you to support this amendment and hopefully it will, if it's adopted we'll have the 40 votes to put this before the people. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Lamb.