

July 19, 1991

LB 6

LR 1

treat all people alike, whether they be large people in large companies or small people in small homes. That's all. I would urge you to adopt Senator Chambers' amendment. It's a minor effort and has no impact whatsoever to the whole 775 provision, the program that was enacted five years ago.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, I guess just an explanation of my vote, personally speaking. Yesterday afternoon, like Senator Nelson, I went back to the district, I spent the day at the Clay County Fair in Clay Center and talked to, obviously, a variety of farmers that were at the fair who had been following the events of this Legislature and the decisions we had made or not made up to this point. And, obviously, the sentiment expressed to me and I'm sure to a number of you, if you go back home, especially in the rural areas, is if you're going to tax me, then let's put everybody in the same boat and tax everybody equally. And I guess that's the explanation of my vote. Regardless whether I support or don't support 775, which I do, and I see 775 as being a much broader issue than just the issue of ConAgra because it has reaped some benefits in my district, it has some implications in some further expansion in the ethanol industry. I guess I would just say that that's not the issue at hand today. The issue at hand today is that we need to look at the equity of the situation we're looking at in LB 6 and LR 1 and the sentiment I'm getting back home is let's play it across the board, let's not just pick and choose who we're going to tax. Obviously, those of us in agriculture or those in business are concerned about this but at this particular point I will support Senator Chambers' motion. It's not that I don't support what 775 has done for the state but it is time, I guess, that we look at the entire issue, put everybody in the same boat and then start the process of looking at how we're going to treat all taxpayers in Nebraska in a manner which the public, at least, perceives that we're doing it fairly. So I will support Senator Chambers' motion.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, I, too, rise to support the Chambers amendment. Going back to the 775 days, I shared with Senator Baack and several others an opposition to the total package. But when the question had been divided into four parts at that time, I