

July 19, 1991

LB 6  
LR 1

everybody else and we've been sitting here for a week and we haven't talked about any significant issues because we don't have time, we haven't had time to study it, we haven't had time to look at it in a concise way. Senator, I will just...Senator Hall is absolutely right in his argument, in my view, we have no business being here now. We have no business dealing with the tax system of our state in one week and we have no business giving the voters 60 days to decide how we're going to go forward in the...in this area of personal property tax and how it impacts the rest of our tax code in 60 days. I mean, I think this debate over 775 just gets at that issue. And it's just futile to talk about taxes and the real issues involving 775 because we don't want to do that. For example, how much personal property tax benefit is there in 775? Does anybody know the answer to that question? I don't know. Senator Chambers, do you know? You know, I just don't even know...we don't even know what we're talking about. What is...is it 2.5 million out of a 126 million? Is it 10 percent, 5 percent? How can we vote on this issue until we know what we're doing and what we're talking about? And I think that's the problem. That's the problem with the session. That's the problem with the 775 issue being debated now. Could...I wish someone would get up at some point in this debate and tell me what the tax ramifications are of this decision that we're making because I have no idea what they are. I have no idea what they are. And I'm not going to...I don't know what I'm going to do on this yet. I'm going to listen to the debate but I'm inclined, at this point, as I've been all along, to vote no on everything because we just simply don't know what we're doing. I think Senator Schmit is right. How many of us have read LB 6? How many of us really know what is in LB 6? And how many of us know what is in LR 1? It's really complex stuff. I don't understand 90 percent of it and the impact that it's going to have on our state. This morning at the coffee shop on Leavenworth Street that I go to every morning, I asked everyone in there, what do they think? And they said, I like the idea of reducing property taxes on my home but I would rather have a sales tax on services to compensate for the difference. I think that's a good argument and that's why we had 26 people vote, I think, for sales tax on limited services at the time of the last session. But...but these issues are extremely...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...complex issues and I...at this point, I