

July 19, 1991

LB 6
LR 1

instead of a cost to doing business. It's an investment in the future and I feel that we need to keep it. And so I would urge you to oppose the Chambers amendment this time and go on and read the bill and then go ahead and vote against the bill. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise in support of the Chambers amendment. I think that one of the things that the Legislature as a whole has taken some heat for during this special session is the recurring assertion that the Legislature ought to take responsibility for what is going on with respect to the tax situation in the state, and that by refusing to vote for LR 1 or by refusing to do other things, we simply aren't doing that. And I think that when we talk about LB 6 this is one of the places that we can take responsibility into our own hands. I think that when we talk about LB 6 some of the debate has been focusing simply on the wrong issues. The issue is not putting all property back on the tax rolls. The issue is not LB 775. The issue is the Legislature putting into place a statutory tax policy that, in the event that we don't amend the Constitution, complies with what our Supreme Court has said is constitutional with respect to tax policy in Nebraska. That's what LB 6 is all about. And when we talk about these exemptions that are the subject of the Chambers amendment, the debate should not be whether LB 775 was good for the State of Nebraska but whether LB 775, on the property tax side, is constitutional. The fact of the matter is if the Legislature doesn't repeal these tax exemptions in LB 6, the courts are going to do it for us. And if the Legislature is going to act responsibly, if the Legislature is going to be the body that determines policy for the State of Nebraska, that determines whether our statutes are going to be in compliance with court decisions, then the responsible thing to do is to adopt the Chambers amendment to advance LB 6 back to Final Reading and finally to pass LB 6 because that's what the courts have said our policy is. And if we don't amend the Constitution, the thing we ought to do is pass LB 6. I would give my remaining time to Senator Hall.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Senator Will, and members. The...just briefly to respond to a couple of