

is from Senator Ashford.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members. This amendment is the amendment which I have offered a couple of times before which would allow the Legislature to tax tangible personal property at percentages less than 100 percent, but would not allow the Legislature to create exemptions on these four classes of personal property, the MAPCO classes of personal property. My position is that as long as LR 1 creates the opportunity for continued exemptions, I cannot support it. However, I do believe that the Legislature needs flexibility in its tax policy and that assigning percentages to...percentages of actual value as a means of creating that flexibility, I think is at least the most oft used way of doing it. It allows inventory, for example, to be taxed at a much lower rate than business equipment, for example, that would depreciated maybe faster. We can get into the...as long as there is some discussion, I will keep talking in hopes that maybe we will resolve everything else before I withdraw this amendment, but I will use my whole ten minutes. Maybe we will work something out here. I don't think I can talk about my amendment that long, but there is an amendment here that Senator Lindsay has drafted about if any bill enacted under this section is found to be unconstitutional, the Nebraska Supreme Court shall be immediately increased to 56 members; said members to include the present members and the members of the Legislature. I just thought I would pass that along. In any event, my amendment is a serious effort. I realize it is not going to go anywhere this session and I am going to withdraw it, but I do think at some point the best way to deal with the issue of tangible personal property is not to get into the whole game of creating exemptions any longer, but to allow the Legislature flexibility through tax credits and percentages to come up with a tax plan that makes sense, that takes into consideration the economic exigencies of the various types of personal property and their uses. And, hopefully, during the time of the 3-R Committee, we can present this option further and possibly it will at that point be discussed more in depth. Just a second. Okay, with that, I am just going to withdraw the amendment. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. There is nothing further on the desk, Mr. Clerk? Nothing further. I would