

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...reduction of the depreciable property value for personal property tax purposes in the State of Nebraska. I think that's a small price to pay for bringing a little ray of sunshine of fairness and equity into the valuation that is provided for under LB 1. So I would encourage certainly the adoption of LB 3, the amended version, as presented by the Revenue Committee. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Do you wish to use your time now?

SENATOR COORDSEN: I think I'll pass. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Okay, thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President and members. I think that Senator Hall covered most of the items that I had intended to use in support of the amendment which I had proposed to the Revenue Committee. However, a few brief remarks. Currently the law provides that the county assessor is to simply "furnish" the property tax reporting forms. The amendment I proposed to the committee, which is incorporated here, would specify the method of furnishing the forms, namely by mailing them. In the days leading up to this year's June 1st reporting deadline, I was contacted by a number of constituents on several occasions, understandably uncertain about their obligations under LB 1063. Apparently, some counties, including my county, which normally mailed the forms to taxpayers, chose not to mail that second set of forms required under LB 1063. This led one caller to the mistaken belief even that, since he hadn't received a form from one county, he wasn't required to report, because he owned property in another county and he felt that there was definitely confusion involved. Now there is no intention to criticize our county assessors and their performance, and simply believe that it is prudent, in this case, to make the method of furnishing that form uniform throughout the state. As I understand it also, the majority of counties already routinely mail out the forms. However in checking with NACO and the Department of Revenue, we could not substantiate the actual number of those counties. In this respect the Department of Revenue assisted in drafting the language which appears in Section 1. And I'm unaware of any