

November 11, 1992 LB 1

multistate corporations. If there's a problem with that, then the problem rests not with LB 1, the problem rests with the fundamental tax policy that we have. The bottom line is that the whole purpose of this session was to partially fill the gap that we're talking about, a one-time gap, a one-time gap between revenue and expenditure that we all would like to argue that it could be done by budget reduction. The realities are that a one-time reduction in the magnitude of \$97 million in budgets is far more disruptive than what...to orderly government, orderly programs. It's not an alternative that's viable to try and talk about, but it simply is not going to be viable, in particular it's going to be the case when you look at the gap that we're still going to have to be looking at with reductions. And finally, from agriculture's viewpoint, and I farm, so I don't like some of the things personally, but that's secondary. It's a matter of what we can do constitutionally, as a matter of public policy, to get out of this problem. But the worst thing that could have happened was to have done nothing. Now it was a fact, not by action of this Legislature, but by the court, that all personal property tax was on at market value as of January 1992. And that, if agriculture feels abused from 1063, or LB 1, or the special session, not only would agriculture have been abused had all that gone back on, but so would the whole state. The economy of the state, the border areas, there is, in my opinion at least, would have been long, permanent damage to this economy that would have taken years to recover from, even if we did it in four or five years, because of the exodus that I believe would have occurred. Still pending is the 1990 and '91 personal property tax the court ordered be..

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...put back on. And that is only going to be resolved through litigation. I'm of the opinion that LB 1, as it stands, is going to at least not harm the possibility of litigation that I think is going to have to be necessary to get that resolved. And finally, when I first came to the Legislature there was a gentlemen by the name of John Kelley that was assistant to Governor Morrison. John was a fun guy, but he had a lot of one-liners that he would give me from time to time. One of the one-liners I remember he said to me that you deal with issues the way they are, not as you wish they were. And essentially what this Legislature has had to do, in this special session, is deal with this issue the way it is, not how we would have liked it. And I think that collectively the