

November 12, 1992 LB 1

because of what it is setting in the way of a precedent as to how this Legislature is going to function from now forward.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam President and members. I don't think there's any senator here that likes LB 1. I think we could probably go down the list and ask the urban, or we could ask the rural, nobody likes LB 1. But there are some things you have to do sometimes. I don't think anybody likes personal property tax, I certainly don't. I think personal property tax is something that you shouldn't have to pay. I think it's a very unfair tax. You should wait until you have a profit and then pay a tax. But sometimes you get in a position where there's some things you have to do in order to protect the tax base of this state. Some of the senators are making a big deal out of this one dollar tax. That didn't compromise for anybody, that didn't bring anybody over. I think the senators realize that we need to look at the whole big picture. We need to look at what's going to happen if we do nothing. If we go home, after this session, and come back next year and try to find 90 plus million dollars, where are they going to go to find that money? Where are the senators going to go? The first thing that's going to go is the sales tax exemption on farm machinery. We fought very hard for that. And I guess I'm not ready to give that up. And I think we need to be willing to compromise to try to find some avenue where we can come back next session and say, all right, we're not being treated fairly, but at least we're on a level playing field with everybody else to start out next session. And I think if we go home right now without passing LB 1, agriculture is going to fall farther behind. I don't believe that can happen. But I don't like LB 1. I'm going to support it, but certainly not because of that one dollar tax. I think that was just put in there for, I really don't know what reason, but it certainly didn't sway anybody. But I think the compromise, as Senator Moore said, if you just look at it and don't do anything, that's the worst of all evils, because this state, the budget is getting to be in such a terrible shape that we need to think about what's going to happen next year. I know my rural people don't like LB 1, but they're going back on 1063. Everybody received their personal property tax statement here about two weeks ago, and they think we're raising those same taxes. They don't realize that they're going to be getting a tax credit, and then come