

April 12, 1995

Legislature. I do believe that this particular motion and the attempt of the Revenue Committee is very timely. And it's timely because during the next few months and weeks, as this Legislature ends up and as we come back to our districts your local political subdivisions will all be preparing their budgets. It's usually a time for legislators to come back and meet with their individual school boards, county boards, city councils and so on, and you'll have the opportunity, I hope today, to begin a discussion with them. It's a matter of giving them notice and raising their awareness. And as has been stated this morning, this is not a magic answer, I want to suggest to you that there is no magic answer and that if you pursue today an answer you'll not find one. The real solution here is a fairer system. There is no magic answer, if there was one it would have been found. The goal here is to improve the system. And with that, we may well be at a crossroads. The worst thing that could happen is for people to take a knee-jerk reaction, I'm either for this or I'm against this. That's not the issue, and I would hope that you would try to direct that discussion that this is not a for or against yet, we're a long ways from that. This does propose some fundamental change in the landscape of taxation in the State of Nebraska. And any time you have fundamental change it's going to be painful unless people understand and agree that there needs to be some change. And I think the duty is upon the Legislature to do that. The Legislature is the most appropriate forum to discuss fundamental change and to begin that debate, and perhaps most importantly is to educate people. And that's what I envision this process to do is an educational process, to help determine which direction we should go. We may well regret some day all standing up here and supporting this. And I hope that you understand that this is not going to win you a popularity contest, but along the way you might happen to come into a fairer system of property taxation and taxation for the state, and that ought to be the goal. And so as we begin today, and this sort of turns out to be lovefest '95 for property tax, just remember that this is going to be a long road, it's going to be very difficult for fundamental change, but the only way you're ever going to make the system fair is to have some fundamental change and that's what hopefully this process will do. I support suspending the motion or suspending the rules, this is an extraordinary step to introduce a bill at this stage of our Legislature. Obviously I don't believe it would be appropriate to debate it on the floor of the Legislature anything that the committee may look at now, because through this summer and through the fall the process of