

April 12, 1995

please. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, now we're talking. And I understand that that's all we're doing at this point is talking, but at least we got something up here and I commend the Revenue Committee for getting it up here and Senator Warner. It's time we talked. The beginning of our legislative session this year we spent some nights and early mornings and everything else trying to get Micron here, and I supported that 100 percent. But we have to keep the people we have in Nebraska here, too. And some of this can only be done by taking a look at one of the burdens that we have in the State of Nebraska on our people, and that's the property taxes. If we have to work some nights and some mornings, I'm willing to do that again. And maybe we can get something done even faster. But I'm not saying that in any way that I support what I consider knee-jerk, hurry up and make feel-good legislation. Let's keep the talking going, now that we're talking, and keep it moving and maybe we can do something to relieve some of the burden that is on our constituents. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I stand to support the motion to suspend the rules and I want to thank the Revenue Committee for what they've done and all the meetings that they've had over the last year to try to get something started on this. And I think this is the first step, and I think we really need to get started on a real important issue across the whole state. We need to discuss the mill levy, but I think we also got to think about the valuation. You can put a cap on the mill levy and we can stretch that valuation up and get all you can out of it. I'll give you a good example. Ted Turner bought the ranch out there for \$140 an acre and the ground is not worth over \$75 or \$80 an acre. And if they use that or take it even into consideration of the valuation that just still raises your taxes. So this has all got to be coming into play on it. And Senator Brown mentioned about a lot of the school land out there that's not on the tax roll, except for schools. I've got 120,000 acres at McKelvie Forest in one of my counties and it's not been on the tax roll at all. So a lot of things come into play on this, even the common levy that was passed goes into effect here in July and it will make a big difference out there, and that's going to raise the property tax next year a tremendous amount in one of my school districts.