

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 4, 1999

LB 770

two, you know, you have to have this little thing on your alarm clock that says set it, and then turn it on. Anyway, I just didn't want to get up at four-fifteen. I'm sorry, I don't know what else I can tell you. And I didn't, but I didn't catch my plane either. All right. Now, Senator Hartnett would probably like me to talk about the committee amendment, and I will. The committee amendment is very simple. The committee amendment simply sets an effective date for the bill to January 1, 2000, because it is necessary to state a specific effective date so that...and this is one of the unusual ones. It would apply to decedents dying on or after that date, because that's the date on which you would calculate the tax. It's necessary to differentiate that effective date in that unusual way so that you don't have people wondering whether the effective date is the date that they file the inheritance tax worksheet, the date that they began probate of the estate, or other time lines that they might suggest. So the amendment is specific but is to be...the effective date is to be for decedents dying on and after January 1, 2000. So that is the very simple committee amendment. I understand that Senator Bromm has an additional amendment to the committee amendments, and also that Senator Hartnett has an amendment to the committee amendments. So you see that even the simplest committee amendments can draw a number of different proposals to them. But I hope we're able to work through those this morning. Senator Redfield is correct that we considered a number of alternatives with regard to modification of the inheritance tax. We attempted to find ways in which the counties could be held revenue neutral with regard to the potential loss of dollars from the inheritance tax. The inheritance tax is kind of an unusual tax, if you will, because it is outside of the restricted funds for a county. We have very little information directly about how much...how many inheritance tax dollars are collected by counties, because the process for the collection runs through the county courts, and then through the county treasurer's office. So there is no central body of knowledge about the inheritance tax that has hampered our efforts somewhat to find a way to hold counties revenue neutral in this process. At the same time, there was sympathy in the committee for increasing the exempt amount, as it had not been modified for some time. We...in the committee, we considered raising the rates above \$100,000; we considered unifying the inheritance tax and the state of Nebraska's estate