

February 24, 1976

SENATOR F. LEWIS: We bring it down here and we send it out. Douglas County--the same way. Per capita return is \$10. Lancaster County--return is \$9. Buffalo County--is at \$15. Cass County at \$11. What has happened? What has happened is we are taking that money and distributing out and helping without state county taxation which is very interesting. As I listen to people talk about the problems in Omaha and they ought to solve them themselves.

I think we ought to solve the personal property tax by ourselves. I say this to you, first of all if you won't abolish the entire property tax relief issue, not saying anything about what you do with the personal property tax, if you don't want it forget it. Not at 62 percent but forget the whole mess. Turn it all back and then let each county handle its own problem. In Sarpe County we'll absorb all of it. We'll take care of it. We're willing to take it off of the cars and the inventory and the cattle and the combine. Forget it. Just don't say "Well we're going to do this and give personal property tax relief" and then come back and say "Well we're going to pay for it out of sales and income tax". Then don't come to me and say "Well let's not discuss this item". Let me stand up here on the floor and almost fall over dead if you talk about \$300,000 and let me say that's big expenditure. Meanwhile, let me shift under the desk \$40 to \$50 million. Then in the name of conservatism and anti-spending, let's talk about it.

I'll tell you why the income tax has gone up and I'll tell you why the sales tax has gone up or would go up and I'll tell you why the expense of state government has gone up, there's a third of it. That's a third of the General Fund increase over the last five years. That's where the money has gone. That ought to be a part of the record. The people ought to know that. So that the people that stand up and say well that cost \$50,000 and roll their eyes and faint, that's penny-anty. There's the big money. There's the tax increase. That represents 4 percent on the income tax. That represents 1 percent in sales tax.

So let's get the record straight. What's the return to the average person? Zilch, zero. What does that help the homeowner in Kearney, Nebraska?

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, your ten minutes is up.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I'll have more to say later. I'll turn my light back on.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. There's probably no issue, at least in modern history of the Nebraska Legislature, that's had more debate, more discussion, more analysis and more bloodshed over it than the whole question of personal property tax. Of course, I think I can say with some authority that I know something about that bloodshed because I represented one side of the issue, the side that lost. The majority of the Legislature, at that time, represented the other side. The issue was decided.