

April 2, 1986

LB 1142

SENATOR HIGGINS: But in Section 1 it says the tax commissioner shall adjust the individual income tax rate prescribed in Section 77-2701.01 whenever A happens or B happens.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes...

SENATOR HIGGINS: So I think, you know, it is a moot question about the public hearing. What you are basically saying to me is figures don't lie, but liars can figure so that if you have a public hearing everybody can present figures in a different way, but that still doesn't change this bill and the tax commissioner saying, gee, I agree with you wholeheartedly, but the law says I must do this. That is how I'm interpreting the bill, Senator.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Higgins, you have one minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And you know I'll give you the rest of my minute, if I'm interpreting it wrong. I (interruption)...

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I would like to take the rest of Senator Higgins' minute because you really are interpreting it incorrectly, but it is not because of any lack of insight. There really are differences of opinion, Senator Higgins, I kid you not, as to how much money a federal law change ..what the effect will be on Nebraska. Shoot, we can't even write really solid fiscal notes on a lot of our bills because there is a difference of opinion as to how much this particular program or this change will cost. And, because of those kinds of differences of opinion, the purpose of a public hearing is to flesh out, as best we possibly can, what the truth is so that the tax commissioner can then make that determination as to whether or not there has been a sufficient change in the state tax base for her to then do her mandatory duty of increasing or of lowering the state tax rate.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Johnson, Senator Higgins' time is up. We have these names in the speaking order, Senator Haberman next, followed by Senator Hoagland, Sieck, Barrett, Warner, and Vard Johnson. Senator Haberman on the committee amendments.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I vigorously oppose LB 1142 for several reasons. First of all, we've had a prime example of what the federal government can or can't do, and it can't even make up its mind on a farm program until after the wheat is planted. We have no control over what