

February 21, 1992 LB 1120

your work to 50 or 60 thousand farmers and ranchers and an equal number of small businessmen, most of whom have been lost in the shuffle on this entire issue. I've said before there are many aspects of 1120 I do not like. But...and Senator Withem asked the question as Senator Scott Moore pointed out, which was a fair question, what price would you pay to exempt all personal property from taxation? I can tell you very readily what price I will pay. I have introduced a bill which will be heard today, I believe it's LB 1275 or 73, which would raise the tax on farm real estate from 80 to 85 percent, because I think that it would be one way to return some revenue to local government. We consistently talk about having to return the revenue lost from the exemptions of personal property. Let me say this, we long ago learned that there is no such thing as dollar-for-dollar replacement of the revenue lost when you exempt personal property taxes, doesn't work that way. So, if you're going to take a dollar away from Butler County and give a dollar back, that's a valid argument. But when you take a dollar away from Butler County and return 60 cents, the argument loses its validity. Therefore we ought not to be so very, very concerned about returning those dollars that we lose if we exempt personal property, as to look at what is equitable; number one, what is ability to pay; number two, what is equitable; number three, what can stand the test of time? There are those who seem to be concerned, and I know I share that concern, about whether or not centrally assessed property is going to be taxed at all. I don't think we're going to get it done. I want to just point out I don't think there has ever been a 4-R case relative to income tax. I may be wrong. There are those who have talked about that with more expertise. I just think that some time we have to recognize that the tax on personal property is an unfair tax, it's a burdensome tax, it's an administrative nightmare. So, what are we going to do? We're proposing, under the 3-R proposal, to remove the equal and proportionate clause so that we can constitutionally lay the wood to those few individuals who are not in the position to hire the lobbyists to make their point. I think it is an abomination. I would like to give the rest of my time to Senator Arlene Nelson, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, I almost cannot believe, and it's not my policy on this floor to maybe chastise a senator, or I hope I don't. I hope I'm chastised for doing it, if I do. But I could not pass up the words of Senator Horgan a few