

March 11, 1992

LB 518
LR 219

kind of language that I think needs to be in the Constitution or needs to be left out if you're trying to, or needs to be dedicated toward taking something out. I want to make another example of that language because it's amazing to me that LB 518 which has been spoken of disparagingly by many members as having caused the problem that amendment which exempted inventory from taxation also exempted livestock and farm equipment, but lo and behold, 15 years have gone by and the courts have ruled and what did they rule? As Senator Warner had said, it all goes back on and it is on. But this Legislature and the Governor, Governor Nelson said he hasn't talked to anyone who wants to tax all inventories. No one, he says, wants to tax inventories. No one in this body is a political fool enough to try to tax inventories. If we were to try to tax inventories there would be a movement from the cities from everywhere that would rival anything you have ever seen on any kind of movement in the past and we would be told of the terrible impact of reinstating the personal property tax upon inventories. Now we all know why the specific language relative to inventories is in the constitutional language. It is there because each one of us have in our legislative districts businessmen and women who would be subjected to that tax. Each of us know that those businesses have a considerable number of employees and each one of us know that those employees would be told if your job is threatened or if the profitability of this company is threatened you may be looking for work and the best thing for you to do is to replace your senator. So what do we do? We bow to the wisdom of numbers and we do not tax inventory. But why then do we say we're going to put livestock and farm machinery and business equipment back on the tax rolls? Why did we do it? As of now inventories are on the tax roll. Inventories are on the tax roll just as is true with livestock, farm equipment and business equipment. So if we do nothing, inventories are going to be taxed and I have had enough phone calls from my Omaha and Lincoln friends, car dealers, et cetera, that I know you are getting some also. Now you are not getting as many as I am from the farmers because they feel secure. They feel they have got a scissor hold on you. They have got a twitch on your nose and you are being led right to the line, and you are going to vote to exempt inventories. Most of the members of this body have no interest in whether inventories are taxed or not personally, none whatsoever. It is strictly political pressure, strictly political pressure. So it bothers me. But as I stated before, the minority does not have the ability to put together that kind of a force, to put that kind of pressure on this body, and if