

vote to do that. He has to go out there to the people of the State of Nebraska, tell them why this is the best thing for the State of Nebraska when it's not. And he better be straight when he tells people there are other opportunities. There are other things that we can do. People talk about statesmanship, I don't know, many people disagree with me, but I think I've tried to be a statesman thus far. I think Senator Schmit has tried to be the statesman thus far and do what he thought was right under intense pressure from an intense minority. I've been... I've cast votes that I thought were statesman like before, I've cast votes that I thought were chicken before. The vote I cast this morning on a no vote, in my opinion, was the statesmanship thing to do. The vote I'm going to cast this afternoon, I guess, is the reasonable thing to do, because that's the only choice I've got. Either way we're going to lose. The fact is even if we do fail to advance the LR, I firmly believe we can constitutionally exempt everything from taxation. But I know the mood of the body is if that happens next week, there's going to be a roundup come to town and they're going to stick it to me pretty good and the ag boys pretty good and make us pay through the nose, and that's just a simple fact. That's the way it is. I remember last year in June walking out of here disappointed. I remember in July walking out of here disappointed. I remember all the speeches of the people that opposed the constitutional amendment in June and July, saying we've got to do something, we can't just let things happen, we have to take the summer off to develop a great new tax policy for the State of Nebraska, we have to take the summer off and look at everything, try and take a step forward. We failed in that, we have failed in that, in my opinion. But nevertheless, the only real choice out there right now is to support LR 219. And I'm going to go to the voters, I'm going to tell them why they shouldn't vote for it. I'm going to challenge the Governor to play straight with people, saying you do have a choice. The court never said agriculture had to pay more. The courts never said you couldn't exempt everything from taxation. The court... you know, the Legislature and the Governor decided we weren't going to do the statesman thing, in my opinion, and exempt all property from taxation, because it's too tough to do politically, because we won't raise sales and income taxes, we won't raise the sales tax on services, we won't do those things, take a step forward in tax policy and get rid of personal property tax in this state. Maybe some day we will. It's one of those things that the quote goes something like, unreasonable people make the world adapt to them, reasonable people adapt to the world around them,