

Governor

DATE: January 30, 1985

FROM:

Gerry Thompson

SUBJECT:

Sales Tax Proposal

Since you were unable to meet with Rich Munn at 10 a.m. today, he and I did a little brainstorming. I sense from Rich that he is seeing the need to eliminate higher education in the dedication of the sales tax revenue. You and I have had that conversation previously.

Tom Throop will be going into work session on the sales tax bill beginning tomorrow. Tom will be meeting with you tomorrow morning at 8 a.m. I am sure his purpose will be to begin to reach agreement with you on some of his outstanding issues.

I have had general non-specific conversations with many of the Revenue Committee members. For the most part, they remain supportive of your bill, but each has concerns, most of which center around income tax relief and dedication.

I have instructed Susan to leave Monday totally open for you. Monday is a holiday (Lincoln's birthday), but the office will be open and the legislature will be in session. Because there is absolutely no other time to do it, I would suggest you utilize that day to do one-on-one with each of the Revenue Committee members. Maybe by going through this process, you can get a better feel for the political dynamics of the committee, the issues that will need to be settled between you and the committee and the issues that will have to play themselves out. Committee members would be:

Tom Throop, who I know is concerned about income tax relief shift and dedication to all of public education.

Mary Burrows, issues unknown, but I will have a preliminary conversation with her.

Ted Calouri, who is getting extreme pressure from the high tech industry for income tax relief.

Tom Hanlon, issues unknown.

Carl Hostica, who will fight the battle to keep higher education within the dedicated revenues. He will be higher education's soldier and believes basic school support should have a limit.

Bruce Hugo, who is more anxious to work on the Basic Education Act than the actual sales tax. He indicates general support and has not identified any real issues.



Mike McCracken, issues unknown.

John Schoon, issues unknown.

George Trahern, issues unknown.

Monday could be a good quiet day to begin to shape committee members and finalize your own positions. It also would be a good day for you to brainstorm with Rich Munn.

I will take no action in setting up meetings, but if you are of the mind to do as suggested, we can call each in as the day progresses.