

SENATOR CARSTEN: But they, as far as you know, it has not been across the board increases over the state.

SENATOR WARNER: I think that is correct.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: I would like to ask Senator W. F. Nichol a question. Where did Nichol go?

PRESIDENT: Here he comes.

SENATOR KEYES: Nichol, I see here that you have a 2.97% increase. Is a 3% increase all the budget is over last year's or what is the increase of this year's budget over last year's?

SENATOR NICHOL: That is approximately right.

SENATOR KEYES: 3%? Is that from the state or is that also from property taxes? What is the increase from the property tax going to be?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't know. I will defer that to Senator..

SENATOR KEYES: You say they have got a 3% increase. Is that just on the sales tax? Is that just from the state general fund?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, that is correct.

SENATOR KEYES: How much of an increase are they asking from the local taxpayers, the property taxpayers back home?

SENATOR NICHOL: About \$600,000, is that what you would like to know.

SENATOR KEYES: What will that be about, a 4% increase on the property tax back home, 5 or 6, what?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't know. I don't know what the valuation will be, sir. Excuse me, I would think you would be in the ball park.

SENATOR KEYES: Before I vote to increase taxes \$800,000 for vocational technical colleges and I think they are important, I want to know how much we are giving them or what they had last year and how much we are increasing. Are we allowing them to increase the property taxes back home by 4 or 5 percent?

SENATOR NICHOL: Well, as you know, not at all. We are not allowing anything. That is up to the counties to say what that is going to be and, furthermore, in my area at least and some of the others, they are at their 2½ mill levy which, of course, they cannot go beyond. In answer to what I think you are getting at is the junior colleges and tech colleges and community colleges were put in a precarious position they are in by this Legislature several years ago, and at that time, the state was paying the entire cost and, of course, as you well know, that was declared unconstitutional so we rearranged the situation