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FLOUR DEBATE

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have a right to truth in lending. I think they have a right to look at what city government is costing them. I think Senator Landis is absolutely right, that it's a consistent principle of conservatives who say they are fiscally responsible, to say that we're going to be up-front and honest about the total cost, and we're going to let people see what government is costing them. And we're not going to leave them a back door where they can increase these taxes in ways that people find it very, very difficult to protest or to have a voice or to change it. I am firmly committed to this bill. I hope that people will not vote the Bourne amendment. I ask your support to oppose it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. We are discussing AM0574, the Bourne amendment to LB 329. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Looking at the board, it would appear that the die is cast and we have begun a reversal of a process that we established a number of years here in the Legislature. Occupation taxes didn't used to be much of a money raiser, but when they were found to be outside of the budget limitation growth, they become quite a money raiser. Now I know that most of you have been approached by your mayors and the president of your city council and all of those sorts of things, and asked to commit before, in some cases perhaps, you were fully aware of what had happened. I would ask you this. If all of the provisions to create an occupation tax in the manner that it is before us, as a totally outside of the lid, unrestricted, no limit, tax on your friends and neighbors, would you vote for it? Would you vote for it if one did not exist, and where we were going to create one this morning on General File in the very manner that is provided for in statute, would you vote for it? Would you vote for it? This doesn't make me a whole lot of difference other than the principle of the whole package of tax reform that this body put in place several years ago which did two things concurrently, and sometimes we forget and sometimes we need to remind ourself; one is that the situation that existed on the local level at that time was one of almost unbridled growth in taxes. Protests were rampant on the amount