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FLOOR DEBATE

February 21, 2001 LB 329

of property taxes. Sales tax rates were being increased, by the vote of the people certainly, but under the goal of reducing property taxes. The Legislature created a limit on elected boards, a limit on elected boards. There is no limit anywhere in statute on the citizens of Nebraska and what they can decide to spend and what they can decide to do at a free and open election. There is no limit, there is no limit anywhere on what the people who are going to pay the bill can do, but we found it necessary several years ago to put restrictions that were pretty severe on elected boards of all kinds, and this was an exception that was overlooked and was found to be a growing source of revenue. Now your...you've made up your mind, you've made your commitments, but just be sure that as sure as God made little apples, to coin the phrase, this will, in fact, extend our ourself to other exceptions to the restriction. We are continually besieged by elected boards who wish to have exceptions created for them so that they do not have to ask for the...to the people who are going to pay the bill what they can spend out of the citizen's pocket. Most elected boards, bless their hearts, want to go back to the good old days when any amount of money was available to them to spend as they desired. So if you would vote for this, if it was a new proposal before us, certainly stick to your guns. If you believe that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...we need to be careful and conservative, and it scares me to find Senator Landis and I on the same team, in the administration of the public business, then perhaps a different approach might be needed. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you Senator Coordsen. Senator Wickersham, on AM0574.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, I will admit candidly that I don't think the discussion from myself, from Senator Coordsen, Senator Redfield, Senator Landis and others are probably going to change your mind. As Senator Coordsen noted, you've probably made commitments. You've told somebody you're going to do something and it's very hard for me to suggest now that you ought to go back on that commitment, but