

February 18, 1982

LB 706

SENATOR DeCAMP: Agreed, it deals with property taxes...

SENATOR LANDIS: Right.

SENATOR DeCAMP: ...but in conjunction with all the bonds and everything else....

SENATOR LANDIS: Secondly, with the question of just as far as the property tax is concerned, no, the Legislature could not do the scenario envisioned by declaring all lands blighted and substandard and therefore entitled to some kind of freezing of the property tax, the reason being the committee amendment that we just adopted indicated that cities and villages will carry out the purposes of 706 consistent with the authorization given by the Legislature. The Legislature does not give itself the authority to exempt property but gives cities and villages the power to exempt lands according to the authorization we give them, and by so doing it would be impossible to carry out the scenario you envision of agricultural lands being frozen throughout the state at their property value levels.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I use an extreme example but the point is I think the amendment takes a completely different direction in our whole property tax scheme and I do believe the scenario I outlined, while maybe not being probable, is entirely possible because you could come to the Legislature and let's not say all farmland, let's say certain houses in a particular area or town or whatever. I just think it opens up Pandora's Box on undoing the entire property tax system that somehow we think is inviolate. I really think it goes far beyond anything we have envisioned in property taxes.

PRESIDENT: Before I call upon the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce some visitors from Senator Schmit's District, 10 students from District 74, Saunders County at Weston, Nebraska. They are up here in the north balcony with their teacher, Helen Sedlacek. Would they acknowledge their presence in the Legislature. Welcome to your Unicameral. The Chair recognizes Senator Newell. Senator Newell, are you...does anybody know where Senator Newell is? Here he is. Okay.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Landis amendment and to assure Senator DeCamp that I think his concerns are not only extreme but highly unlikely. Senator Landis' proposal is aimed at an area that would be designated