

where we're putting it, nobody else, the property taxpayers of Nebraska and it is just the wrong time and the wrong year with the new federalism as has been pointed out time and time again on this floor, with the restricted state revenues that have been pointed out, the Governor came in and told us about it. He gave us the message from Tax Commissioner Leuenberger and now this same chain reaction is going to hit those local property taxpayers and to vote on this floor for a quarter of a million dollars increase on local property taxes is wrong. It is the wrong time and it should not be done now or this year.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, LB 629 in its form right now is a scandal. It really is. Reasonable is what we are being asked to be here. Well reasonable is, to paraphrase an old expression, as reasonable does. Senator Hoagland would have told you, had he had the chance, that there are between nine and ten thousand probates a year and in every one of those cases there is roughly a \$125 spent for absolutely nothing. Over a million dollars a year in worthless notices which in my experience, and the experience that I have had with lawyers have gone back who have been practicing 30 years. These notices have never been effective in producing heirs or the like and what we do with 629 is to raise this kind of a notice 30%. Now I suppose Senator DeCamp would say that if you had sold and high pressured an Eskimo into buying a refrigerator but you sold him that refrigerator at a reasonable cost that he was getting a bargain, that you were being reasonable but in this case the absolute refusal of the press to consider reasonable amendments designed to do away with outdated and outmoded public notices which historically are simply unconvincing without any evidence of showing that they serve the public good. What LB 629 does, in other words, is to subsidize newspapers by paying for unneeded items. They're not generally on public notice but there certainly are some public notice items that are not needed, that can't be shown to be of value, that can't show that they have produced heirs brought into probate court but for which that lobby continues to hold on, kick and fight and cost the taxpayers of this state a million dollars a year for absolutely nothing. I defy John DeCamp or any other member on this floor to show me where the kinds of notices that Senator Beutler and Senator Hoagland were objecting to ever produced genuine public notice and a reaction to a court case. They never have. So we're going to raise by 30% fees across the board for the kinds of notices which in this case at least, have no effect and have never served a public effect. Perhaps we all were distressed to hear