

SENATOR LANDIS: I'm trying to be as forthright as possible here, Howard.

SENATOR LAMB: I appreciate that. Now, we would go beyond that a bit. What, in your opinion, would happen if we just wait? You know, the problem I see here is we have an interim solution which may take pressure off of the constitutional amendment. People say, hey, we're getting along all right, we don't need to go for Senator Rod Johnson's constitutional amendment because we do have LB 361 which can become a permanent solution. So what would you say about that line of reasoning, that should we not just not pass anything which would then put more pressure on the constitutional amendment route instead of the 361 route? Would that be a logical method of operation?

SENATOR LANDIS: I can understand that perspective. I don't share it, and I'll tell you why, although you're right, it does have to do with the bill, not the committee amendment. At this point we have values border to border that in many counties are unconstitutionally low. Because they are unconstitutionally low, any other taxpayer in the county can go to court, sue and have their valuations dropped to that level. It depends on how you see it. I see that as being potential chaos and I see it as our job to fix that situation. I guess I would turn the topic back this way. If we left things where they are with no 361 or no constitutional amendment, that I would say is an untenable position to be in and if I had a chance to ask you a question, I'd guess I'd ask you if you thought that was an acceptable condition for the State of Nebraska to be in ad infinitum into the future.

SENATOR LAMB: I would ask one more question then. Let's just assume that this bill did not pass...

SENATOR LANDIS: Right.

SENATOR LAMB: ...and that we did have a constitutional amendment which would be voted on at the next election.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LAMB: Between now and that point, would you care to guess how many lawsuits would be filed and what kind of chaos and how terrible would the chaos be between now and that point?