

point out that if we're going to get involved with the spending debate, keep in mind that we should consider the same thing for our own state agencies. I'm not going to mention all the agencies. We've got some that have over 11 percent increase this year. It's okay with me. If you want to have a spending limit at the local level, apply it for us as well. You know, we're not going to have any kind of problem at all meeting and in fact lowering. Might even have money left over for a tax rebate as I understand some people would like. But let's not make it look like to the folks back home that we're really serious about property tax reform because we're not. I'll share with you one interesting story. I think it was in the late seventies when a 7 percent spending limit was imposed on local jurisdictions. I just happened to be Chairman of the Board at that time and all of our agencies in the state requested less than 4, in most cases less than 3, and one less than 1 percent increase, all of the agencies of the county, because we didn't need it. We didn't need anymore than that. We had the ability to spend up to 5 percent but we didn't, up to 7 percent. Except for the Extension Service, the state agency got through building a building and they wanted a 27 percent increase in their budget. This state agency wanted a 27 percent increase, everybody else less than 4. We gave them 7 percent because that's what the levy limit was. That seem fair and reasonable to all you reasonable people? You know what, we got sued. The County of Douglas got sued by the state saying, you've got to give them a 27 percent increase. After all, that's a state agency, that's not a county agency, and you've got to give them...and we did. We gave them a 27 percent increase that year because it was the state. I'm only telling you that story because that's a good example for us to think about as we contemplate this cap legislation.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: Because, unless we do it ourselves, we shouldn't even imply that we expect local jurisdictions to do it without knowing independently and individually how it affects all of those jurisdictions. I think for that reason Vrtiska's amendment is a good one. It gives us a year to understand what we're doing and why we're doing it, not just play games with the minds of the local taxpayers, leaving the impression we're really serious about property tax relief.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Vrtiska, you