

shuffle, and that's what it is going to be...

PRESIDENT ROBAK One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...if we don't come up with some, some real answer to what people perceive as a problem and a burden, and I haven't...over the weekend I never told anyone that I am coming down here to vote for LR 297 because it is going to reduce your property taxes. We must not promise our constituents that, so I am pleased to hear...see Senator Beutler bring this amendment. I am pleased to hear Senator Warner and the others say this is a long-term effort. It will not happen today. It will probably not happen to the fullest extent that we might be able to do something about property taxes, it won't happen in this session. We have to keep at it and we have to be honest with our constituency and that's what I am trying to do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Madam President, colleagues, first of all, I would just like to say I agree with the premise, the basic principle of Senator Beutler's amendment before us in that it is unrealistic to think that we can do this in one fell swoop and certainly local governments across Nebraska would not be able to adjust to the dramatic outcomes that are being proposed in a variety of different venues. I don't know that we want to necessarily spread it out over ten years, but as Senator Beutler indicated, I don't know that now is the time to split hairs. I would like to speak to the broader issue and indicate that the history of the past 30 years makes one wonder why the leadership of the Legislature is willing to take on this responsibility. It is obvious and has been brought forth by a number of speakers over the course of the last week that the Legislature has tried to react to crises after crises. So I guess I think it is laudable that the Legislature once again is willing to address this local issue here in the Legislature. While it might be a proud day within the confines of the Chamber, I hope people recognize that this is not necessarily a proud time for the citizens of Nebraska. I hope that the citizens recognize that, in fact, what...what has brought us here is an indictment through citizen involvement. We haven't done a very good job of staying connected with our local governments. We haven't done a very good job of continuing to look over their shoulder, to make sure that spending didn't get out of hand, or that property