

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in a meaningful sense, is advanced by this Legislature and levy caps are put on, I think something like this almost becomes a necessity. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Janssen, on the Vrtiska amendment.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to relate a little bit of the testimony that we had in Government Committee concerning this proposed amendment and bill. What concerns me is in Richardson County, not only the fact of the expensive trials that they've had, but the roads and bridges that the devastating floods of 1993 have placed on that county. There are, I believe there were thirteen bridges that have never been replaced, and as a matter of fact, they don't think they ever will be replaced. I know that Richardson County received a lot of federal money and state money to repair some of these things. But it just didn't...it just didn't go far enough. I don't know whether there is another county in this state that had that many, that many bridges and roads that were left out of a commission. I know that the trials have really taken a toll also on that county. But at the present time, if I'm right, they have borrowed over \$200,000 just to keep the county from going belly up. And what would, you know, what would happen in that county if the county did say, we were done, we're not going to...we can't pay our bills, we're going to go belly up. I believe that Orange County, in California, did the same thing and I'm not sure how that was handled. Whether the state came in and helped them out, possibly they did, and maybe someone knows what happened in California and could speak on that a little bit also. Senator Vrtiska, I wonder if, Senator Vrtiska, could you answer a couple of questions for me please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Vrtiska, will you yield please?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, thank you.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Vrtiska, do you think that if Richardson County would get their indebtedness cleared up, that the money that they borrowed from the local bank there in Falls City, I believe it was, that they could possibly manage to