

visit with you today, tomorrow, next week, the week after chat about property tax, and they're going to talk to you about what services have to be cut. And you remember when we first started this debate we all stood up or a number of people stood up and said, look, property tax debate is real difficult but it's real simple; when you talk about reducing property taxes you're talking about two things--you're either going to cut or you're going to raise taxes. My guess is you don't want to raise sales and income taxes. But if you do, you want to make sure that you're going to guarantee some property tax relief, and so the simple answer of just raise sales and income taxes without some guarantees is dangerous and it's going to harm people. And so what you've got to look is what do you really want to do and the easiest way, without mandating from the Legislature where to cut, is to give people the incentive or give them the reason to look at themselves for mergers and consolidation...

SENATOR WILL: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..of services.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Before we proceed to the next speaker, the Chair would like to recognize some guests of Senator Landis. Under the south balcony there are 11 international students from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, including their leader, and they're participating in a program sponsored by the UNL International Affairs Department. Please rise and be welcomed by the Nebraska Legislature. Next speaker is Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. President and members, I can remember a long time ago when we had the floods in '56 or '65 or whatever it was, yeah, and it was decided in Douglas County that we should do something and we got together with Washington County and Sarpy County, because that's where the creek ran through, and voluntarily put together a three-county flood control program. We got the Corps of Engineers involved and we did a pretty good job, and it was all done voluntarily. We didn't spend much money because it was voluntary and, in fact, we developed a plan and a program that we were able to fund and, in fact, implement. Well, then somebody got the idea that maybe, since it worked so well, they ought to turn it into a subdivision of government and that's how we began to develop the natural resource districts. And, for what it's worth