

March 21, 1996

LB 1114  
LR 292

and villages. I'm just trying to make that a little less onerous for them so that they might be able to continue to have a checkout counter for us to drive our carts up to. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Maurstad, and you did get your additional ten seconds. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking about the property tax package in just a moment, but with the rise of vandalism here on the floor today, and I being somebody concerned about vandalism having immortalized the phrase "stop, vandal", I just want to establish and erect right now the "Wahoo wall". This will be a little something between me and light-fingered Senator Bromm. On his side it says, no authorized entry past this point, and notice it puts the mike on my side, and on my side it says, keep your dirty mitts off my property, this means you, Curt "Light-Fingers" Bromm. The property tax package is, in fact, a package with several moving parts and I want you to understand how I think it works. First, we do two years of spending limits with just a limited amount of growth. Then we have the drop of the hammer, which is the levy limits. In the third piece are the opportunities for savings through consolidation and the like, which both occurred the other day and then today in the constitutional amendment. How will we motivate people to consolidate? How will we motivate people to reexamine their services if they get a free pass at the beginning with the Maurstad amendment? We won't do it. Now, here's the way I contemplate the way this should work out. We create the conditions under which, if the hammer falls, we have a real problem and the real problem is a 200 million dollar shortfall at the end of this spending limit period, in which we will either have to come up with funds from a state source or there will have to be spending cutbacks on a local level. Only two choices: either they cut back 200 million bucks, or we make it up, or some variation of the two. We do not have the groundswell that would permit us to do 200 million dollars of new state taxes. Not going not happen. Can't happen today and could only happen if there was a change in the tenor of the times. One of the tenors of the times that could change is the kind of reality that should set in with 292 and 1114. Here's what I first think happens. I think, first, cities start thinking about sales taxes. They've got three years to pass a sales tax. That will change the mix. Second thing they can do