

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 149

institutional responsibility. And when the chickens come home to roost I hope it's not the kids that are hurt and I hope that those who have led us down this path are around to share in what I am very concerned is going to be a great deal of pain. And I have no doubt that...about what the decision is going to be today, but I really hope that that decision is made with some thought to the precedent that it sets. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: On the motion to override Governor's veto on LB 149, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature. I'm one of those people who voted for 149 as it moved along and I would...one week ago I would not have visualized myself standing here saying what I'm about to say. But, I tell you what, I went home this weekend and when I go home people know it and they...there was a crowd at our convenience store and I was met with that crowd and I was also met with headlines on the local paper: valuation increases so on, 1999. The county assessor caught me Saturday and says our valuations in Hitchcock County are going up 30 percent on Class IV-G ground, which is a lot of pastureland. Senator Jones and I have a lot of it. (Class) IV G ground went up 30 percent. And I suggest to you who say this has nothing to do with what we're doing today, then let's freeze valuations. I tell you, when...these taxpayers have it figured out, a little better than I did. I admit it. They're asking me what have I done down here with letting a printout control what we're going to do in the Legislature now. And it's not what I told people. I campaigned against 413 and I campaigned hard against it saying we can do better than that. Some of my neighbors said, yeah, if this is better than 413 then we can probably expect, 413, instead of western Nebraskans voting against 413 next time they'll vote for it. So it's an issue. They point out too that we gave \$120...\$120 million, roughly, of property tax relief. We got \$64...or 64 million back. Fifty percent of what we invested in property tax relief actually came back to the taxpayers. I'm going to vary my script a little bit. A lot of what I wanted to say has already been said, but some of the superintendents, I'm trying to quote this as near as possible: 149 gives us a false hope when we should be unifying, consolidating. I can point to my home county, Hitchcock County,