

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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April 12, 1999 LB 271

matrix that we have distributed to you. But the idea is that you have governmental property that's not being used for a governmental purpose, with a subset of that idea that somehow it's being used for something that looks like a private purpose and, therefore, ought to be held to the same playing field and the same standards as other property, and that the government isn't above the kinds of costs, the kinds of concerns that a private owner would have in those circumstances. And, secondly, the recognition that when governmental property is exempt, and this is Senator Smith's issue, it's true that exempt property producing income within the narrow confines of a particular political subdivision may lower taxes in that political subdivision, but they will ultimately raise taxes in other political subdivisions. So there's an equity issue here. In addition to the pure business equity, there is equity for taxpayers, and the assertion that somehow passing this bill raises property taxes is a tiny bit misguided. It may indeed raise them for some, but it will lower them for others, and the balance will ultimately turn out to be about the same. But it is an equity issue. And if you wish to favor the political subdivision where you live, you can vote for that, but that's not equity to the people who live elsewhere and pay higher taxes because you benefit. It's an equity issue. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. You have heard the closing on the committee amendments to LB 271. The question before the body is, shall the committee amendments be adopted to LB 271? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 271. Have you all voted that wish to? We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 271. Please vote if you wish to. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The committee amendments to LB 271 have been adopted.

CLERK: Senator Smith would move to amend the bill. (AM1205, Legislative Journal page 1398.)