

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion on the Kristensen amendment to the Wickersham amendment to LB 271? Senator Raikes, followed by Senators Chris Peterson, Jones, Bromm, Tyson, Wickersham, Smith, and Vrtiska.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I arise to oppose the Kristensen amendment, and also support the Wickersham amendment. I think that considerable progress has been made on molding LB 271. It's certainly not a simple process or a simple idea. It may appear so on the surface, but complication creeps in very quickly. Regarding the Kristensen amendment, I...he mentioned, I think quite appropriately, that there is...there was a constitutional amendment passed. It was a clear indication that the voters decided this was something that we needed to get on with. The constitutional amendment is not self-actuating. The Legislature does need to take action. And I think it's probably prudent public policy to move quickly to accommodate the wishes of the voters. This is a...what you might call a base or fundamental statute. It sort of addresses the whole issue of taxation of government property in an elementary way. By that I mean this is going to be the statute to which you will...that you will apply if you don't have a specific statute to deal with a particular situation in a specific manner. So it's very important, I think, to do what we can on getting all of the difficulties ironed out. As I say, I think we've come a long way with that. I don't really believe that we do need to delay it further. I think that with the discussion we have this morning and so on, we can get it into a form that is acceptable. And I would urge that we do so. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Chris Peterson.

SENATOR C. PETERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is an extremely complicated bill, as Senator Raikes has said. And I think that part I certainly agree with him on. Some of the others, though, we may not be quite as close together in agreement. The constitutional amendment that was passed...and I think we need to be very clear about what was