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LB 382

SENATOR HILGERT: That would include Omaha, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it expected that this increase in valuation will result in a higher property tax bill for Omahans among others?

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, certainly the local governmental units could have the foresight to lower their levies correspondingly, but one would assume that it would raise property taxes in Douglas County, at least to a certain percentage, to coincide with the spending caps of our local government subdivisions.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if an additional property tax had to be...if general obligation bonds were issued and had to be paid off through taxes, which they will have to be, could that be an additional property tax?

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, yes, because the bond indebtedness on some institutions, I believe, are exempt. And what we're talking about is...would be bonds and not general operating expenditures so that the local...you're right, the local governmental unit could choose to raise property taxes should they want to use this tool that the Legislature might give them.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could they raise the wheel tax if they chose to?

SENATOR HILGERT: I'm not an expert on municipal government. I believe they could raise almost any tax they choose to, just like they can today without this bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Members of the Legislature, I didn't want anybody to get the idea, who might be watching us here, that I'm making up things about the increased tax burden on the people in Omaha. Senator Coordsen frankly acknowledged that the Revenue Committee wanted that message out there. But that was not discussed by those who have spoken in support of this bill. It was not mentioned during the opening. Senator Bruning who praised it for all the jobs it will create did not mention the increased tax. I don't know if Senator Bruning is here or not, but I was going to ask him would there