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first began, he said I rise to oppose, and I thought of that expression, she stoops to conquer. So I'm just wondering either she's very tall or he's very short. (Laughing) That's all.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. One thing that we haven't perhaps heard real clearly is the word "if", that little word that sometimes makes a real big difference in meaning. What Senator Wickersham is saying that...is that the NRDs won't lose a penny, but then we've got to focus on "if", if they raise their property taxes. And, Senator Stuhr, could I ask you a question please.

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Stuhr, could you tell me how easy it would be for your NRD to go to the property taxpayers in your area and say, I want to raise your property taxes. Would you just do that real easily?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Stuhr?

SENATOR STUHR: Probably not.

SENATOR PREISTER: So you think it would be difficult for your NRD to raise their mill levy?

SENATOR STUHR: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Stuhr, and I think if I asked anyone else here who is in contact with their NRD, they would say the same thing. The NRDs have had a difficult time historically raising their mill levy anyway. They just have not felt comfortable in doing it. They have not been able to do it. This is local control and at the local level they work closely with the local property owners. And those property owners elect those people to those boards and they want low mill levies. This is not a time for increasing property taxes and raising mill levies. So that little word "if" is very important here because the NRDs are going to take a hit. They're going to take a hit to the tune of \$1.6 million and that's because of the