

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

May 4, 1999

LB 880

against this amendment and that's based upon my concern for what's happening with the NRDs and I really don't think that it's just so simple as allowing them to raise their mill levies. They're not politically going to be able to do that. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Jensen, on the Wickersham amendment to LB 880.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I have a good friend of mine who owns farm property both in Nebraska and in Iowa, and at this point in time, Iowa, particularly around the Nishnabotna Valley, have not had any problems, any flooding problems, but one thing he did say when they had problems last year, the year before that, had problems four years ago, that he said, gee, I wish Iowa had NRDs and you don't know how lucky we are in Nebraska to have this...this method, and I fully agree with that. I'm also...feel that the board of directors of the NRD, who serve with very little pay, much less than what we get and, of course, they don't...they're not...their demands are not as heavy, but they are very cognizant of their taxpayers, and I think they do a tremendous job of doing what they can in the way of flood control, erosion, and all the other activities that they are doing, and we ask them to do more every year, like Senator Stuhr did say. I also feel that this is sending the wrong message at the wrong time to them. They...most of the NRDs have programs and plans laid out four, five, seven years in advance. Now what are we going to do with those plans that are laid out ahead of them when we ask them to redirect their dollars at this time? I stand in opposition to the Wickersham amendment and feel that the Appropriations Committee did come up with the right blend at this particular time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. A couple of comments, and then we'll let this whole thing go to rest. First of all, NRDs nor counties, well, the county commissioners or supervisors do, nor school districts, nor no one...anyone else sets their levy. They establish a operating budget from which...which is measured against the valuation, and