

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

May 4, 1999

LB 36

because even in Senator Quandahl's proposal there is the potential for taxes to go up, with or without a valuation increase. And the other point I think we need to make...and I'm...may speak again...but the other point that needs to be made is that even with valuation increases in a county, it does not necessarily mean that taxes are going to go up. There is still another part of the equation, and that is the budgets that are adopted by the various taxing subdivisions that can apply a levy against that value. If those budgets don't go up, then the taxes won't go up. And as you're all well aware, I hope, there are spending limitations in place that will mean that they can't automatically...that no political subdivision can automatically track valuation increases with budget increases, and therefore tax increases. They can't do that...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...unless the voters let them do that, through overrides or other votes of the population. But we've expressly left that door open so that we could be assured that local services were provided for. I sympathize with the predicament that may be occurring in Douglas County, but in my view, the far better solution is to provide adequate resources to the County Assessor's Office and to ask the County Assessor in Douglas County to bring all properties up to the same standards that we have tried very hard to implement in all other counties in the state.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. On the Quandahl amendment, Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the Quandahl amendment and in what we're trying to do here, and also to say that I appreciate Senator Wickersham's comments regarding the goal of trying to have the County Assessor bring everything up to the same value. And I believe that that's one of my frustrations which is manifested in this amendment, that I believe the Douglas County Assessor is trying to do that. He's newly elected, he's...in fact, he raised valuations, he started with his own home. The frustration that I've encountered regarding the TERC's most recent decision regarding Douglas County valuations are basically two-fold.