

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

May 4, 1999

LB 36

One, it is widely believed that business property, commercial property, lags behind residential property. Therefore, it was strange to see that the mandate is to raise residential property rather than commercial property where the need is. The second was that an across-the-board valuation is mandated. That was very frustrating because I believe Roger Morrissey is trying to take steps and is taking steps to bring up valuations to where they are uniform, I believe between the target range of 92 to 100 percent. And I believe he should have had allowed time to do that. I understand there may have been and there was mistakes perhaps made in the past, you know. But to borrow one of the cliches that I hear from some of my colleagues is that, you know, there's a new sheriff in town, and Roger Morrissey should have that opportunity to clean up Dodge City regarding disproportionate property tax valuations. If you had a house that was already, for example, 100 percent of market value, adequately appraised...or, valued; another house was 60 percent; an across-the-board valuation, for example, of ten percent would increase the house, would bring the 100 percent above...to where it's above market value, as well as raise the 60 percent house only up to 70. That's why the across-the-board mandate was fairly...is very frustrating. And I believe that Roger Morrissey wants to take that house that's 60 percent and bring it up within range, but at the same time, there's no need to raise valuations on people's homes that are already within the 92-100 percent range. That's very frustrating that he was not allowed to do that. I hope in the future...because I believe that there will be subsequent action, or at least the ability to have subsequent action regarding this mandate...I hope steps are taken to perhaps further dialog, perhaps have Mr. Morrissey further explain his procedures, perhaps to make sure that the Douglas County board gives Mr. Morrissey the appropriate support in order to achieve his objectives while at the same time not having to mandate the across-the-board valuation increase as was suggested recently in the news. So with that, I certainly commend Senator Quandahl, Senator Kiel. I do recognize Senator Wickersham's leadership and the progress that has been made in the recent years across the state as far as bringing valuations up to a fair level. That certainly needs to be noted, and Senator Wickersham's efforts needs to be commended. But frankly, I do think it would not be unfair or unjust to give Douglas County the opportunity to do the right thing, without