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LB 36

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler, would you continue to yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm sorry. I wasn't listening.

SENATOR KIEL: (Laugh) What would happen if somebody came to your constituents and said, we're going to increase your valuations across the board ten percent? What would they say?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, depending upon the degree of sophistication, but they would be suspect, I'm sure.

SENATOR KIEL: Okay. Obviously, I'm not trying to make light of the issue. But I keep going back to the fact that we do not provide equity to any of our constituents by simply saying, we're going to increase your taxes...excuse me...increase your valuations across the board. We do not provide for the homeowner who has been paying their fair share all along, and we certainly do not do justice by the homeowner who perhaps has been paying a very small percentage of their valuation. Across-the-board increase simply means that the gap remains. Additionally, I would like to echo some of Senator Hilgert's comments, and that is to say, when we talk about the elderly homeowners that all of us have in our districts, when we talk about the working poor who have been lucky enough to acquire property in all of our districts, we are doing damage to them when we let go or let go by an action like this. The elderly and the working poor and those folks who...the disabled, the veterans...who qualify for a homestead exemption, some of them will be knocked out of having a homestead exemption before we even get the legislation passed that's going to increase their homestead exemption, or the valuation cap on their homestead exemption. We do not provide for equity when we do this kind of thing. And I want to make sure...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR KIEL: ...that everybody on this floor understands that this is not a fair way to approach providing for equity in valuations of all classes of property. I would ask that you make sure that you pay attention to that particular issue after