

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

May 18, 1999

LB 881

Senator Wickersham has already mentioned that we better be ready to explain to our constituents what happens if this bill moves and is passed. December 1 your phone is going to start ringing, that's what happened in 1990, because people thought they were going to get a check or something as a rebate on their taxes, and what it was was a credit on their tax receipt. I happen to have my tax receipt from the first half here with me. Well, in Lincoln my house is valued around \$100,000, my taxes are just a little over \$2,000. That sounds like a lot or not so much, depending on what your taxes are, but for me it's not too bad and I don't argue about paying it. The community college is \$35.08. For the city of Lincoln and for our community and for Milford and so on I think that's a real bargain, because I think community colleges right now, especially, are emerging as the backup to university and state college education. Our school levy is \$657, this is mine for the first...\$657. So my point that I'm making this morning is that originally I didn't..and by the end of the day or whenever we come to the vote today, I'll probably vote to move this bill. I always reserve the right to change my mind. But when...I have been concerned about the Revenue Committee the whole time because they took a negative attitude towards the original bill from the very first day. Oh, we can't do that! Why not? What is so terrible about sending some money back that they can cash a check, back to our constituents? Well, obviously, we're never going to get that. But I already...I'm going to have...I'm going to have some information ready for my constituents when they call, because a lot of people have told me that they thought that was a great idea, that they would feel that they had gotten some of their money back, if they got a check or some cash, some way. When they get this bill, and there's a little credit, it's not quite the same. Plus the fact, with valuations and so on going up in different areas, the credit won't mean much because, overall, probably their taxes will go up. Our taxes...our city levy right now is 100...our city levy, in Lincoln, is...the amount of money on my bill is \$163. That will go up because Mayor Wesely has already said that you have to spend money to develop and have your city grow. I'm not arguing with Mayor Wesely this morning. All I'm saying is that in Lincoln probably our taxes will go up for the city of Lincoln because of that. So, I'm just making my point this morning again that in many ways I don't think that the Legislature is serious about lowering