

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

May 18, 1999

LB 149, 881

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. The speaking list is as follows: Quandahl, Kristensen, Schimek, Wickersham, Beutler, Jones, Landis, Brown, and Dwite Pedersen. For discussion on the committee amendments to LB 881, Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I, of course, stand to support LB 881 and the committee amendments as they've been presented before us. Of course, as I told one of the members of the press, I believe it was last week, the Governor's proposal I saw as the whole enchilada, and this might not be the whole enchilada, but it's at least a good, healthy bite, and it's a step in the right direction. And I would commend the members of the Revenue Committee and all of them for their work in this matter. And my hat, if I chose to wear one, I would tip to the members of the Revenue Committee, and I thank them for their work on this. Property tax relief, as Senator Coordsen was discussing, is a work in progress. It's not something that can be done overnight. It's not something that can be done in one year. And I think that the committee amendments reflect that and we are heading in the right direction. Every little bit does help. And I believe that the budget that we sent to the Governor, which showed a constraint on the spending, along with this bill and the committee amendments, shows to the citizens of Nebraska that we do have their best interests in mind, that we're trying to contain spending, and at the same time provide the citizens of Nebraska with some real, direct property tax relief. Now what started out in January, and that would also include my political career, has now become a reality, and that's some real property tax relief for the citizens of Nebraska. I would make a few points about the committee amendments. There was some discussion on...earlier in the year on...on other bills that directly affected LB 881 and the Governor's property tax relief. Among them was LB 149, the school property...LB 149. I would say that at that time, in some discussions for Senator Bohlke, we did talk about how LB 149 and LB 881 may conflict with each other. But with the committee amendments, all of that is taken away. LB 881, with the committee amendments, does not impair, or hamper, or otherwise conflict with existing state aid formulas. It does allow the school levy to drop from \$1.10 to \$1.00 in two years, just as planned. Furthermore, some of the