

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

May 18, 1999

LB 881

aspect was the creation of the fund where we could show to voters that there was this amount of money that could be used to address property tax relief, and it sort of pits it against spending. And that, in my estimation, would help the public understand what the choices are and especially the public that might have pet projects, just as all of us do, that are driving spending. Then they would understand that the choice is, do we address property tax relief by putting the money into the fund, or do we continue to spend it? That aspect is very important and it may be enough to keep me on board in this, but I think that we need to think very seriously about what we've lost in terms of public perception. It has taken us a couple hours to talk about what the mechanism for this bill and for us to understand it. How do we expect that the public is going to understand it or appreciate what that means to their pocketbook? And we need to be simpler, because if we have to keep going through the litany of what we've done and people don't...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: ...people don't perceive just out of hand how much we have done. If you look at the growth in income tax...income tax receipts in this state, it has been straight up. Sales tax has been a little bit more moderate. Property taxes have been flat and, yet, people still do not perceive it, and it's got to be simple and I'm afraid that this is not simple enough. But I do think the creation of the fund is enough, enough of a hook for me that it will probably keep me on board. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments, Mr. President. (FA236, Legislative Journal page 2198.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized on your motion to amend the committee amendments to LB 881.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a serious amendment and I'm offering it in seriousness. On page 1 of the committee amendment, starting in line 21, I