

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

May 18, 1999

LB 881

rest of my time back to the Chair.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the committee amendments.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I'd withdraw that momentarily, please.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn. The list of speakers is as follows: Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Schimek, Tyson, Redfield, Wehrbein, Preister, Kristensen, Vrtiska, and Chambers. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Earlier today Senator Crosby and then, more recently, Senator Pedersen have mentioned interest in the committee deliberations, Revenue Committee I'm talking about. I thought I would lend a little bit of my perspective of those deliberations at this time, although I should be careful not to stain any of the other members with...by indicating they necessarily agree with my views. I think the main focus of the committee all along here was good tax policy. It is a complicated issue in the case of property tax policy for several reasons. One of them is what are good tax principles in this case and, as Senator Kristensen mentioned earlier this morning, there's a good deal of history of particular efforts that have taken place along the areas of property tax relief. And then, as Senator Bohlke and others mentioned, public perception is a difficulty here. What you do or intend to do or intend to accomplish may not be perceived as such by the public. In the...at...at the outcome of these committee deliberations, why, the committee did unanimously support this proposal on the grounds, I think, that we do have concern with property taxes, that it was certainly a good faith effort by the Governor to address this issue, and that we, although we could not address it in as large a fashion as many, including myself probably, would have liked to have done, it at least is a way to address it. But I should also mention that,