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LB 881

wanted in those negotiations. I know I certainly didn't, because I would much rather see a check go into the hands of the taxpayers. And as we look at the valuation increases throughout Douglas County that have been ordered and in Sarpy County as well and some of the other counties throughout the state, we recognize that actually we're looking at a bill that is just a reduced increase of property taxes and that's sad. And I don't know if our taxpayers are going to recognize it when they look at that statement and see the minimal amount that their taxes are going to be reduced. However, when people come together in a democracy they have to give and take and compromise, and that's exactly what has occurred, and this is the plan that was agreed upon and it does have some pluses. One of the things that I did hear from the people in my district is that they couldn't understand why they had to go and fill out burdensome reports or forms and mail them in, in order to prove that they were due a rebate. And I think that's a legitimate question. They paid their taxes. Why do they have to prove that they did in order to get the rebate back? This plan eliminates that because it will come directly through the county treasurer's office and they know exactly how much the property taxpayer paid and the deduction will be accordingly. The other thing is that it will, in fact, reduce the administrative costs of cutting a check. So, while I don't think it's as...as nice as we would have liked it, Senator Tyson and others that have spoken to it, this is what we have, because in democracy we work together and we all give and take just a little bit. And so I'm going to support the committee amendment and I'm going to support the bill, and I'm going to ask that you do likewise. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Redfield. (Visitors introduced.) For discussion on the committee amendments to LB 881, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, I've not been sure exactly what to say on this because I have been one to...one to exercise caution in the amount of the necessary property tax relief that I believe Nebraska taxpayers have come to expect, and I believe that it's probably fruitless to step in front of a train that is now going this way, but I still believe it's time to exercise some caution and look carefully at where our cash reserve is going. I know we are going...I don't want