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LB 881

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: So your gross tax might be a little less, but you're also not going to get a credit. So people are going to go, well, hold it, what happened to my property tax credit? And you're going to say, look, it went to state aid to schools and that's where we gave the credit. The trouble with that is that the state's spending will go up because we're going to count that as an expenditure, that money we gave to the state aid to schools, and that figure is going to be about 7.4 percent. And so they're going to say, you raised state spending 7.4 percent. That's the way the bill currently is. If you'd go over with a credit and give that credit an equivalent amount of credit, you're going to get about a hundred dollars of credit. You're going to pay the exact same amount of tax. It's just that it's going to be a credit instead of giving the money to the schools for state aid to schools, but the state spending is only going to be 3.8 percent. Why is that? Because when you move the money off the budget...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...with a credit, it's not state spending.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Vrtiska, on the committee amendments to LB 881.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I...I rise, as many have ahead of me, in support of this amendment. It was interesting listening to some of the discussion because we keep talking about, rather than getting a check, getting a credit rather than a check, that your taxes are going to go up if you got a check and yet then you're going to get the money to help pay them and...and if you get a credit, hopefully, your taxes won't go up as much. And I agree with the people who have been discussing this at length about how the bottom line is really what people tend to look at. They tend to look at what their taxes...what their total tax bill is and it would certainly be nice to have a check. But, you know, in most instances that check will be spent for some item and, by the time the tax bill comes around, you sort of forget you that you got it and so...but you still have to pay more taxes so, as far as I'm concerned, I don't see that there's a whole lot of difference. I think the biggest issue that bothers me as