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LB 881

probably much as anything is our complete reassessment of how property is taxed in this state. Many of you know, and I'm sure many of you have heard from your constituents who have seen tremendous increases in their value, and serving on the board as many years as I did I was...we were always accused of, county board, of never...never raising our levies but merely raising the value of property so, as a result, taxes went up no matter how you cut it. So what...I guess what bothers me as much as anything is that in many instances, and more particularly around the metropolitan areas where there's opportunity for people to move out into the rural areas and buy a piece of ground and put a house on it, it reflects on all those properties around it. And the result, it's good to have a property that goes, for example, a lady called me, their...her value was \$90,000 on her house in 1997, it went to \$144,500 in 1998, simply because that's what the sales reflect. Well, that's fine if you want to sell your property, but if you want to live in it on a fixed income it's a little different story. But, putting that all aside, I think what we're dealing with here is an issue that certainly is reflecting of trying to be conservative, trying to be fair and trying to hold taxes and make the people somehow through this process understand they are, in fact, going to get a tax credit, even though many of them won't notice it because they don't look at those tax sheets as well as they should. But what I see is that probably in the...in the final analysis your taxes will go up but they won't go up as much. That's kind of a hard sell in many instances but, in reality, if...if you're...if you're in a group and they just...people want to talk about it, that's about the only response that you can give to those people to understand, that if their taxes went up and they hadn't got some kind of a credit they'd probably gone up a lot more, and to me that kind of cuts the same as if they had gotten a check.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: My time is about up, so I'll turn the rest of my time back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. On the committee amendments to LB 881, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature,