

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

May 18, 1999

LB 881A

answer to both questions and I only got one of them wrong.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But had I guessed I might have guessed both of them wrong, so I gained something. That's what I learned in honors English, how to do that. Now I'm going to turn on my light to tie that all into this bill that is before us and I know you all cannot wait to hear how I'm going to do that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, property tax relief is the boulder and the Legislature is that poor pitiful person trying to push the boulder over the crest of the hill and never quite does it. Tantalus represents the public, which is misled by the Legislature into thinking, in concert with the Governor, that what is being offered is going to satisfy the hunger and quench the thirst produced by property taxes that are too high. So you never push the boulder over the crest of the hill. You never give meaningful property tax relief, never, and that's never going to happen, never as long as this government exists and is to do the things that it is required to do. This government, of which you are a part, does not levy one cent in property tax, not one penny. Yet, every time I hear people in this government, I'm talking about the state government, talk about some kind of tax relief, it's in an area where this government does not levy any taxes, and that which is offered merely tantalizes, that's all. If somebody is thirsty, this little piddling amount is not going to do anything. Senator Bromm was right. He said some people say this is piddling and others say it's not worth it, and the true conclusion is that it's somewhere in-between. And what is the in-between? It's piddling and it's not worth it. So he's right. So why is it being done? For political reasons. That's purely and simply why this bill is before us. That purely and simply is why the Revenue Committee knuckled under. That's purely and simply why hard-headed, clear-eyed people, in most circumstances when they agree with me, such as Senator Redfield, will go for it; is why young, cheerful Senator "Smitty" Smith will go for it. Senator "Crandal", who sits quietly and bothers nobody and thinks that by doing that he's going to blend in with the background and not