

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

March 14, 2000 LB 1348

property tax is going to be driven up. And everything we've been doing in this Legislature has been to try to keep the property taxes going down, not up. But what is going to happen in part, given the historical response, is that they will be reluctant to raise the property tax, they will be very reluctant to raise the property tax, for the reasons that you and I know. And so in part it will be that this job will not get done. And when I have a little time later, I want to go through each of the 23 NRDs with you and tell you exactly what's happening out there. They do not yet have a handle on the nitrate problems. And it's the worst time in the world to be taking money away from that effort. Not only is it bad just looking at the situation internally, but it's bad because the federal government is now beginning to look at the flow of nitrates into the Gulf of Mexico and beginning to look at the effect of our nitrate problems on other states, not just upon ourselves. But that's a minor reason, compared to just keeping our ground water protected in the state of Nebraska. So, having said those things, how much time do I have left, Mr. Speaker?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: About two and a half minutes, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think I will stop at that point and let others speak. But my light will be on a number of times, because I do want to acquaint you intimately with each and every NRD and what's happening there with nitrates. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Pardon me. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is an issue, I think, that everyone on the floor is familiar with. The Revenue Committee certainly is familiar with the issue. And if our chair would wish to speak, I would give to him the rest of my time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, Senator Coordsen is offering to yield you his time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Would you...would you care to use the rest of my time to speak to the Revenue Committee actions?