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LB 540

schools. Well, unfortunately, in Nebraska that is being shifted back more and more to the property tax owner. I remember getting an e-mail, oh, a year or so ago, from an individual in Malcolm, madder than a wet hen, because his property was valued at more than another specific property in town. His didn't have a double garage. His didn't have a...shake shingles. His didn't have this or that. And he was really upset, because he was comparing it to another house. Well, I happened to recognize that other legal description of that other house. It happened to be my in-laws'. I proceeded to very courteously tell him that his property had just been revalued. This other property was outside the city limits, and would be revalued next year. And then he would be happy because that property tax would be higher than his. Then I proceeded to ask him how many children he had. Two. I then asked him how much he paid in property taxes. He told me. Wasn't even close to paying the educational costs of his two children.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR HUDKINS: So here...the rural population...and I know the rest of you are getting awfully sick about hearing about, the rural population is in such bad shape. And we are. Because there's no crop. I don't mind paying income taxes. That means that I made income. But I have to pay the property taxes whether we drown out, freeze out, dry out, or whether that cow has a calf or not. So I'm just venting. I just thought you'd like to know. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I will support LB 540, in whatever form it emerges today. But I will not support adding another penny to the local levy lid. I understand that this is connected to the amendment yesterday that cut K-12 state aid by \$16 million. But I didn't vote for that amendment. It cut education without solving the budget problem, so I didn't vote for it. And therefore, I don't feel bound to vote for this right now. The main focus of my school finance plan has been shifting away from property tax for K-12 funding. And this, of course, takes us in the other direction.