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LB 968, 1024, 1226

tax, especially when it is done...isn't done equally and it's just directed at certain areas. Yesterday Senator Howard talked about LB 1024 and she said it doesn't make sense to give a tax cut as we have done in LB 968, then approve a property tax increase. That was when we were talking about the Omaha Public School System bill. This statement is probably right on target and it applies to LB 1226 as well as LB 1024. The amendment, AM2971, will remove the portions of LB 1226 that allow NRDs to increase their property tax levies of up to 3 cents per \$100. That valuation will be, as you look on the handout that's being handed out, any of the NRDs that are getting over their mill levy limit of 4.5 cents will then be allowed to increase their mill levies by up to 3 cents. This will include all...like towns in areas around the Scottsbluff-Gering area. This will include property that's under irrigation districts that come under flood irrigation from the waters from the dams up in Wyoming. This will include all property in there. It isn't just necessarily those that are pumping water with their irrigation that are...that is well water, ground water. As you go over into the South Platte area, in that area, Sidney, your Cabela's, everybody will pay this property tax. I don't think it's a fair tax. I think this is something that, those that are against property tax, I think this will be where you can decide for yourselves whether or not you want to support a property tax increase. I have not contacted lobbyists. I've done this...this is going to be...go on the record of who is for and who is against property taxes. With that, I would urge your support for the amendment as a demonstration that you agree with most Nebraskans that property taxes are too high and we shouldn't be allowing them to go any higher. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Loudon. You've heard the opening. (Doctor of the day introduced.) On with discussion of the Loudon amendment, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the legislative body, Senator Loudon and I agree on one thing. I don't like property taxes either. But I think it is time for us to give some more flexibility for the NRDs in the basins that are fully appropriated. And, by the way, Senator Loudon, that's a good