

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

April 29, 1999 LB 36

family that moved next-door to me last week from Maryland. Well, last night the wife came over and said, Quandahl, what are you trying to do to us? We just have been here a week and I read in your paper that our property taxes look like they're going to be going up anywhere from 7 to 20 percent, and it's you down there at the state that are doing this to me. And so my question, I guess, that I would pose to Senator Wickersham is, what can we do for people like that, that haven't even been in the state for more than a couple of months, to be forced into a higher property tax situation by a mandate from the TERC, and what can we do and is there anything in this bill that we can amend to address a problem such as that?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham, would you yield?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, first of all, I don't know that your neighbors will experience that large a property tax increase. I understand that the TERC has issued an order for a valuation increase, which I understand is 7 percent. I think, Senator Kiel, we talked about 10, but I understand it's actually a 7 percent order. Valuation increases do not necessarily result in increased taxes, although in your, Senator Quandahl, in your specific instance, it might if it doesn't apply to all property in Douglas County, because it shifts property valuations within the aggregate groups--commercial, residential properties. I don't know that we could legislatively reverse the order of TERC. I, quite frankly, I don't know enough about the order. I would doubt that we could legislatively reverse that order or whether it would be a wise thing to do. There are procedures and processes for Douglas County to pursue. If they wish to appeal the TERC order, they may attempt to do that. I might also note that, as you're aware, we have an under...under...discussions are underway in an attempt to find ways to provide additional property tax relief, not only for your constituents but for others. In fact, you have a priority bill that would provide some mechanisms for doing that. I am hopeful that we will be able to propose to the body some way to provide some additional property tax relief. And, while that may not completely meet the needs of your neighbors, we may be able to help them through those mechanisms.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I'd yield the rest of my time back to the