

February 15, 1979

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always felt that if you can go halfway maybe this will work. So take it from there.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, did you want to speak on the Merz amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I had hoped very strongly that Senator Murphy's amendment would pass. Senator Cullan in his talk kind of dismissed, dismissed in about twelve seconds, a four hundred percent property tax increase with some conversation to the effect that, aw, who really cares. I mean, what the heck, we all know we have got to do something about water. You damn right we have got to do something about water. We have got to do it now and this bill is a major bill, but let's not lose sight of the whole history of NRDs and how we got here. This Legislature gave a promise to the people, to the public, and I heard it a hundred times on the floor during the time these were being formed. One mill, one mill, that is the highest you could go and they weren't going to use up that one mill. Why, shoot, those NRDs would only use maybe an eighth, a quarter and probably never ever reach the one mill. Well, that one mill got swallowed up so quick it would make your head swim and then we came in with this which is a whole new taxing system for a quarter mill. Why did we need the quarter mill? Because we had spent our eighth of a mill, or I mean our full mill on trips to Hawaii or did we forget the trips to Hawaii for the whole group? Did we forget all the bicycle paths, the golf courses, the, you name it, buy up this land, buying up that land? We used up our mill doggone quick so we needed a whole new taxing authority. Now the whole original purpose of those NRDs was protection of our groundwater and our natural resources and now to do that we have to have a whole new taxing system because we spent our money on something else. I will tell you this, unless we get this into reasonable limits on this taxation, taxation of property, I will fight it all the way even though it is the most necessary bill, one of the most necessary this session. But holy mackerel, Sam, property tax is kind of important, too. There are people sinking in this state financially because of property tax. Now I know in the Navy it doesn't mean that much but, by god, it does to some of those people out there that can't afford to pay it any more, that are paying two and three and four percent per year property taxes and here on one little area of property tax you want to increase it four hundred percent. That is four hundred percent property tax increase just for one little program. On a \$50,000 house, what does that amount to? \$15, \$20 times, Sambo, times three or four,