

February 15, 1979

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when you get everything brought up to value. Now admittedly, admittedly, we have to do something about water and we are going to have a lot more control areas but you aren't going to have any people left out there if you take all their money on property taxes anyway. So I would urge you to accept the amendment as probably a reasonable compromise. Even though I quite personally think it is too excessive, I will still vote for it as the best solution. I urge you to adopt the Merz amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Oh, that might be a good way to keep it. Mr. Speaker, Senator DeCamp, and I hope Johnny will listen just for a few moments, I don't care whether you put one quarter of a mill, a half a mill, three-quarters of a mill or one whole mill on the property, I want to tell you one thing. There was a bill before the Revenue Committee yesterday that was taking apart LB 1 of the Special Session. If we keep LB 1 of the Special Session intact, very, very near intact as it is, I don't care how much money you give the NRDs, they can spend only seven percent increase in the property so that is the limiting factor on property taxes across this state and we have got to keep it in for people like Senator Kremer and Senator Merz and any other Senator that will come on the floor of this Legislature and try to raise property taxes. We simply have to have this bill in. It has to pass. It has to be effective and it has to guarantee the taxpayers of this state, those who own property, that we are not going to go hogwild no matter how good the reason. We are not going to take their money away from them. We are not going to take their property away from them. Ladies and gentlemen, I don't care. It is not going to bother anything whether you give Merz his half a penny, you are not going to be able to increase that ad valorem tax base by more than seven percent unless you change that bill radically. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Speaker Marvel.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I move that debate ceases.

PRESIDENT: All right. Motion to cease debate. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK. 26 ayes, 4 nays, Mr. President.