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LB 138

and did you know that the valuation of Douglas County is going to go up 71%, 71% increase in valuation. Douglas County can cut their mill levy 67%, stay within the 7% lid and still pay part of the health plan but I am going to support bringing it back so let's do it and get it over with.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy and then Senator Newell, the Kahle amendment number one.

SENATOR MURPHY: Gentlemen, I raise on a rise, if you will, raise like a loaf of bread. I rise to put forth a philosophy of taxing and that is really what we are talking about here. I would rhetorically ask if passing this bill is going to lower the cost to the state and county jointly and, of course, the answer is no. Is it going to improve the service to the recipient? And again the answer is no. What it will do as we are so prone to do, is to hide from the person back home, what his government is costing him because you will nickel and dime him to death in the grocery store in order to replace this. We not only are not lowering the taxpayer's burden, we are increasing the taxpayer's burden because by reducing what the county must expend in this particular category, they are free to expend that money elsewhere and we with our usual nobility, will raise the taxes of the same individual who is now being taxed by the county. This money is going to come from exactly the same source. The only thing is we will now have permitted the counties, under their statutory lid of 14.2 mills, to go ahead and spend more money in some other category while we increase the cost to everyone in this state by assuming it at state level, if you will, extracting the same amount of money from the same person and letting the county raise his taxes. In effect, that is what this bill will do. Now I have a very strong sympathy with the control the county does not have over this program and I have that same sympathy with the state because we, too, have no control over that program and you know it and I know it. The state is currently paying more than the county is paying to this program with the same net result that we have no control but if you think this program is going to be improved by transferring the control, such control as there is from county level, to where the recipients are known, to state level, to be administered as our state programs are, if there is any improvement in that conjecture, I fail to see it. Now I have sympathy for the county but I also have sympathy for the taxpayer because we are not helping him. We are simply raising his tax if we do this. I