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LB 1002

the people of this state would say no and I have listened to them twice. I don't approve of what they have done but the people are right. I do not deny the people the right to do what they think so I am going to go with the twenty million. I hope the formula helps Sarpy County. I know that the forty million more would bring some more money into the county but I will go with the twenty million, stick with the Governor, and let me tell you it isn't because I love the Governor that I am sticking with him.

SPEAKER MARVEL: (Mike off) calls the question. The Chair has the following members on the list and I can't...I have to be bound by that and that is Senator Wesely, Senator Beutler, Senator Maresh, Senator Murphy, Senator DeCamp. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I will be very brief. As you know I passed around for your information a packet of information dealing with last year's floor debate concerning LB 585. You all should have copies of that on your desks. If you don't, I have extra copies here. Essentially I took excerpts of Senator Koch's comments and Senator DeCamp's comments which relayed to us their concern about our ten million dollar state aid increase amendment last year and the fact that we did not approve that increase even though there was a feeling that we could do that within our existing revenues but the feeling was, no, that is not going to happen. We are going to be in a recession and so it is going to trigger a tax increase so we didn't do it. Well, let's review the past year because the situation we are in right now reflects on that because we didn't pass the ten million dollar increase. We, in fact, in November through the Board of Equalization and Governor Thone decreased by one percent the income tax rates which six million dollars was cut by that effort and in the end ended up with the twelve million dollar surplus at the end of the year so that is to say we were eighteen million dollars over what we had anticipated and that was all surplus and we could have easily taken care of a ten million dollar increase in state aid and helped relieve, at least in part, part of the problem that we have in property taxes in this state. Well, we are in the same situation. We have got twenty million dollars here but we are still talking about a questionable reserve and we are talking about a questionable amount in surplus and the talk is, well, we can't afford another twenty million dollars, that that will trigger another increase in taxes, and my feeling is as it was last year that perhaps they are wrong, perhaps the estimates are wrong. We are still four million dollars under the estimates presently of revenues