

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Will.

CLERK: Senator, your amendment is on page 1823 of the Journal.

SENATOR WILL: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to withdraw that amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Landis, page 1878.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you will recall that this is a bill on the lid that political subdivisions have and it had a couple of adjustments in it that we made in the Revenue Committee. You will recall that we built in a consumer price index, a way of dealing with growth in the economy to work, to build it into the base of a city's budget. What's happened between General File and Select File is the Revenue Department has asked us to alter some of the language for technical purposes and so those changes are in here. They've put things in different orders in different places. Secondly, Senator Avery pointed out that we allowed for natural disaster exemptions under one mechanism of the lid, but not under another. So I should tell you that this amendment allows for an exemption for infrastructure damaged by a natural disaster declared pursuant to the Nebraska Disaster and Civil Defense Act of 1973 which is not otherwise reimbursed by the state or federal emergency funds. And lastly, there is a deletion of one of the mechanisms that we tried to look at in the committee for some flexibility in the lid and we just got to the place where we couldn't make it work. This was a system to allow for some flexibility on budgeted expenditures. The difficulty was that there are political subdivisions that have widely differing reliances on property taxes and that if you had a jurisdiction that did not have heavy reliance on property tax, you could make up this budget flexibility by just essentially using that tax base and raise property taxes 10 or 12 percent. And I was very reluctant to endorse any idea by which a property tax could be enlarged by that amount of money so we struck that provision. Basically speaking, redrafting; secondly, the natural disaster exemption; third, the deletion of the system that we had suggested in which there were to have been allowances away from budgeted expenditures and there is a