

districts. But there is always a specific benefit that's allocated, and the tax is an assessment, is an assessment. It is not a general levy, it is not a general property tax levy, which is what is going on with an NRD. To say that the NRDs are special assessment districts is not in accordance with any definition or any concept that I think is defensible...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in terms of making that kind of distinction. The value of real property is not the principle to be considered. And I would ask Senator Coordsen, Senator Coordsen, if you...if you would allow disproportionate representation in the case where the property values are higher in the countryside, would you allow disproportionate representation once it switches over and the values are on the side of the cities? That's not what your amendment provides, as I read it.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Beutler, I'm going to have to talk all around your question because your question relates to election districts, not subdistricts that have been identified and authorized to be unequal in population, both by the state Supreme Court and the federal Supreme Court in separate case. So this has been held...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...to be not in violation of the...I have my light on, at some point in time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members. Let me follow along the line of Senator Beutler's comments in opposition to the Coordsen-McKenzie amendment. And I understand the desire to try not to have this change occur with one person one vote. But again, conceptually the principle we need to follow is that, one that we've had, I believe, in our country now for about 30 years, since the early 1960s. And let me backtrack a bit, because I have looked into the issue of representation and how you vote, and the changes that we've gone through in this country over the years. We started with the