

Committee, if this group of our colleagues feels that this issue is important enough I think we ought to address it. Now, Senator Kahle, maybe it's not the solution we're looking for but I think we should at least extend the courtesy to these members of our body who have worked hard on this special problem to hear this issue. I think it is a higher priority than other priority bills. It's a higher priority, I would say, than the priority bill that I have which is about five or six down the list. I would support Senator Carsten in his effort to bring this up and share with us the recommendations of these members of the Legislature. It is the biggest issue facing the State of Nebraska right now and it is something that I think if we do not act on in this Legislative Session it would be a poor record of accomplishment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm a member of that Committee and I'd just like to address a point or two that I've heard discussed here. As to Senator Kahle's remarks that we're going to roll back the valuations this is not true under this proposed amendment because we have a statement of intent prepared and it will do nothing to jeopardize the provisions of LB 131 and the penalties involved thereto. So, what we're doing here--what we hope to do in this legislation is to provide the vehicle to have a systematic, computerized, uniform, valuation of real estate properties but it'll take about three years to initiate it and in the meantime there will not be a roll back in valuations but we'll operate from the base we have now. I would certainly support bringing this back. I think it's almost a must because we have a crisis in this situation. I think we should bring it back, open this up for enough discussion to determine whether or not this is the way the body wants to go and move from that point.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, I can understand the frustrations of some of the membership here in terms of the issue at hand. The first thing is I believe there has to be some legislative direction in this area this year. Perhaps the recommendations are not all that everyone wants. I have some questions about some myself. However, that will never be discussed and never be debated unless it's right here. The number one hot issue in Senator Keyes' District just like it is mine, is reassessment, re-evaluation and I get called every week end everywhere I go and they say what are you doing about this and what's happening? And believe me there is nothing that attracts interest to government like a dramatic increase in valuation of property in which you have to pay a tax on. The Legislature cannot bury it's head in the sand on this issue. You're going to have to address it. The things that that select committee have found out most of you already knew. That first that there are some unusual procedures being taken in this state right now in regard to valuation. Senator Kremer last night pointed out some in the area where he lives. There is substantive numbers in the area where I live. There is substantive ones across this state.