

think it is a well-deserved, well-earned exemption to have. I think these societies continue to serve a purpose to this day. I would see no rational reason to proceed to tax them. It would seem to me that it simply puts another burden on a society, on a useful society that is serving its purpose well, is still serving a purpose of providing young people a place to exhibit their wares. It is keeping many of them off of the streets, so to speak, off roads, so to speak, across the state. Even in Lancaster and Douglas County, there are many youth involved in the various 4-H programs, as well as FFA programs across the state. So I think it would be a real shame to put another roadblock, especially in this day and age when we are working seriously in here to come up with programs that will keep our young people involved, at the same time learning them, teaching them to get along with each other, to become involved in cooperative efforts together to participate in all the activities that go on, the type of activities that go on at county fairs. So it seems to me very shortsighted to try to end up with any possible method to tax them. It is true what Senator Chambers said that probably most counties would vote to exempt them. On the other hand, it does seem like it is an unnecessary effort to put on a ballot, whether it is special or regular, when most of the people at this point seem to be happy because there seems to be no public outcry for anything such as he is proposing. I would probably disagree with all of the amendments that he is proposing down the line. I think those are well-earned exemptions over the years. I'd see no reason to change it but, particularly, since I think I and many others of us have a bias toward agricultural and horticultural societies because it has well served the rural areas over the years, there is no reason to change this, there is no reason to bring it up to a ballot, there is no reason to get involved in it to the point that it is going to raise an issue where there is none. So I would respectfully urge you to vote no on Senator Chambers amendment, and let him get on to another amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I, too, rise to oppose the amendment, and I'd just like to point out a couple of things. We have one fair in our neighboring county that people, many of the businessmen contribute money besides the tax dollars that are furnished to put on the fair down there, and I think that, in itself, shows that there is an interest in what's going on. Another thing that I think that we