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delinquent on their property taxes and that is what we are doing. We are actually creating an incentive. 9% now is below the prime rate of interest. So we are telling these people go ahead and use this money. Don't pay that property tax which is due and owed and we will reward you with two points on the interest rate for not paying your taxes. Now this doesn't make a lot of sense to me. I think when a bill is due, it should be paid, and I think if that bill is not paid, it is not good public policy to reward those people who choose not to pay their bills. Now this is not a punitive measure. If we were going to make a penalty, if we were going to try to punish through the interest rate, we would be talking about fifteen or sixteen percent. All we are trying to do is put this figure at closer as to what the value of money is today which is about 11%. So when we, and we will hear some opposition to this saying that we are trying to damage these people, that is not so. We are just taking the incentive away. So I'd urge we reject this portion of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I believe that I need to rise and visit with you a little bit about the committee action and it boiled down to this, that the committee felt that there did need to be a difference between the interest rates, and while we recognize there may be advantage taken of this situation, there are also many applications of persons who find themselves at a financial situation that at that particular moment cannot meet that obligation for a short period and it was those people that we were giving consideration to and I know Senator Dworak has a point and I appreciate his point but we are also thinking of the other side of the question, too. It was on that basis that the committee decided not to approve the increase in the rates. It boils down to whether you are going to punish those that take advantage of it or whether you are going to punish those that really need it for a period of time. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, I would oppose the amendment and also the bill in its entirety, but specifically the amendment where I don't feel we had shown to us in the committee that it would affect the collections in enough substance to change the law and the interest rates which I think might be very difficult to change and reduce back down in a subsequent year. I feel we have a temporary interest