

magnified three or four times, three or four hundred percent, when it gets straightened out. So I'd urge a word of caution at least with respect to the financing part of it where you increase a property tax three or four hundred percent as it is in the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I certainly agree with Senator DeCamp on the valuations, the property valuations. I really can't agree with you when you talk about little towns going to pay for this. In the first place, they get a real economic value off of this because if you are going to take that water out in an aquifer which is nothing more than a lake under the ground and pump that dry, they are really going to be affected one way or the other. I will agree to the fact that if you go from one-quarter to one mill on it, it may be too much. The bill says up to one mill and not one mill, just up to one mill. I don't really know how much they are going to have to have. I do know this that if we are going to go into a control area of any kind the problem is going to be probably metering at that time. Someone is going to have to monitor the meters and that is going to cost money to monitor those meters. If you have five or six hundred wells like I do out there, and we are not in a control district, the fact is they just decided they would not go into a control district. We had a task force out there comprised mostly of irrigators who don't want to go into a control district and one of these days they will probably have to go under if the water table goes down any further. But there is an economic stability to these smaller communities to do it. Now we talked about putting a water tax on rather than putting on a mill levy and I certainly will agree with the fact that that is nothing more than a percentage. If you get this farmland up along ways, it is going to be a higher percent. They don't have to charge that much but whether they would or not is probably something else. You have got two and a half right now on community colleges. I don't see anyone lowering that two and a half mills and certainly they are getting more money out of it so I think we have to worry about that but someone is going to have to control that. This is not set in concrete. If we find out that the NRDs are levying one mill in those districts and they don't need one mill, they are doing something else with the money, we can certainly come back here next year and change that downward. That is the main thing that I think about the bill and I voted to put it out on the floor.