SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: This bill changes from 8,000 to 5,000 the population requirements for counties who the Clerk, Register of Deeds and so forth could not practice abstracting. What is the reason for that?

SENATOR HABERMAN: First of all, there are no registered abstracters in those counties from 5,000 and up. But the reason is this, we get to the point that if a county clerk or a county assessor is an abstracter and the assessor and/or the clerk, possibly sometime they are doing abstracting on county time. This is possible. Also, they get the use of the county courthouse on holidays, Saturdays and Sundays when they have a key and can use it for abstracting when those in the private enterprise cannot do so, and therefore it's unfair competition.

SENATOR LAMB: Then why would you not eliminate the population completely?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Because in some of those counties we have to use the county attorneys and county assessors and county clerks as there are no abstracters.

SENATOR LAMB: How many counties would this change, this population change, how many counties would that affect?

SENATOR HABERMAN: One.

SENATOR LAMB: One county?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, Arthur County, one of my counties.

SENATOR LAMB: Is that the only county?

SENATOR HABERMAN: To my knowledge, that is right, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman, do you want to close on the...the motion is to advance 409 to E & R for Review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 mays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.