

as presented to you as a big reward for the delinquent taxpayers is really sort of moot as far as the subdivisions go. The subdivisions have a varied interest in this because the State Auditor's office has taken interest payments on delinquent taxes outside the lid. So it is quite a source, and the difference between if there is a 4 percent difference in collection fee, or a 3 percent difference between 12 and 15, would amount to \$1.2 million if on state and local taxes we have approximately a 4 percent delinquency on a billion dollars, which is about what it amounts to when you take all property tax collections and the collections from the state. Now you put those together, that is \$40 million drawing an additional 3 percent and that is an additional 1.2 million they are looking for outside the lid, and that is the heart of the issue. Interest rates are not 20 percent prime today. They have moved down to 17 percent and are forecast to move on down. Now, this is the angle that's slightly over the 12, but the subdivisions could borrow at 12 and under when they issued warrants if they had a responsible warrant position. They could borrow at 12 and under when the interest rates and prime rates were at 20 percent. What they want is a cliffhanger over the taxpayer, and it has not proven to be the problem with large delinquency rates. They have never presented a case that the delinquency rates on property and other taxes had grown to the point that large or huge increases were needed. They got it for a source of revenue. I cannot believe that they really thought they needed it to get the taxes collected. In the first place, farmers that have property taxes have generally a lender they are responsible to who puts it at a very high criteria to have the taxes paid every year in front of that farm loan. The Federal Land Bank, your insurance companies, demand the payment of those taxes. In the urban areas, most of your homes are taxed...home taxes are paid by the savings and loans when the homebuyer makes his payment. The interest rates on delinquent taxes do not affect the payment of these because that money is in a trust and it would be a breach of the trust for the savings and loan not to pay that property tax when the money has come in from the homeowner. So you have a large base of people that are stable taxpayers, and the ones you have you really hurt are the small people that don't have the money today and can't go get it, or have to go get it at 18 or 19 percent, that have to put it off for a little while on their tax payment. They are the people that again from the state we can hike it to 15 on them, and I think as a state government we ought to represent the taxpayers first and the subdivisions second. There is no lobbying effort