

are going to get their money or they are going to get the property. We all know that. There is that threat. So what we are talking about is a penalty and I guess I am wondering since there is a lot of sentiment here to make those penalties retroactive, let's go back to whenever they started and I would remind you that with this amendment we are not changing the interest rate. If the interest rate...if you want to set the interest rate at...if this body decides to set it at 20 percent, we are not changing that. We are simply saying that if it was 8 percent, or 6 percent, or 12 percent, or whatever it was in the past, that we shouldn't be able to go back in the past and change that. Is this any different than quite often we change the penalties that we assess for various crimes in this state or various misdemeanors that are committed? We will have a bill through that changes it from a Class IV to a Class III or a Class V to a Class IV and so forth. Why don't we make those retroactive? They are penalties too. Why don't we tell somebody that we have already assessed a fine of a thousand dollars too for some crime that he committed five years ago, or three years ago, or two years ago, or last year, that the Legislature in its wisdom has passed a bill that raised that fine for that particular crime to \$10,000 so, therefore, you owe the state nine thousand more dollars. We don't do it that way. These people are not necessarily criminals. I just think it is fundamentally wrong that this Legislature go back in time with this sort of a penalty. If you don't want to look at it as a penalty and you want to look at it as a business, from a business point of view, and it's true there are people that perhaps don't pay their taxes for the simple reason that they can borrow the money cheaper somewhere else. That's one of the reasons we are trying to raise the interest rate for this bill. If that is true, then why didn't we make the interest rates when we raised the various interest rates for the loans that the banks could make last year, why didn't we make those retroactive? Why don't we make them go back to the day that the note was drawn up? Personally, I thank God we didn't, but I can't see where there would be any difference, if you want to look at it from a purely business point of view. One other thing, I think we need to recognize that occasionally there are people that don't get their taxes paid for the simple fact that maybe they forgot to get that particular parcel of land, taxes paid on it. There are people that own several different parcels of land. In that particular instance we are going to say that since you made a mis-judgment, perhaps, we are going to assess you a penalty over and above what the penalty was at that point in time.