

collections for the future year. We are locking up in law higher rates. I think if you look at the taxpayers' side and not at the collector...now originally we had an assumption here in the state and in government that the subdivisions and governmental entities had to get along with the taxpayers. If it comes to a protest, we have handicapped the taxpayers, and there is some reason to think that the subdivisions should keep a good rapport with the taxpayers and have the taxpayers willing to make their payments. I might remind you that at no point has the Federal Land Bank ever gotten to 12 percent interest in its interest charges. So you are not talking about people going out and borrowing or using that money necessarily at what are nationally considered the highest interest rates in the nation, when you talk the 17...20 percent deal. We are locking in law collection procedure which was not made to profiteer on the taxpayers but merely keep things going while they paid their taxes. I urge the body to defeat this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: In the north balcony from Senator Kremer's District are fifty-six 9th Grade students from Aurora Junior High School. Bruce Ramsour and Jamie Auch, are the teachers, in the north balcony. Will you raise your hands so we can see where you are? Okay. We are speaking to Senator Carsten's amendment to the bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, I think we have about worn this poor sucker out, but I would like to again reiterate that the counties are not in the lending business, or subdivisions of government, the cities. They are in the tax collecting business. That makes all the difference in the world. If you want to make a lending agency out of them, as someone said, well, they can go and borrow the money somewhere if the taxpayers don't pay it. That's a lending agency, not a government entity collecting taxes. I think that the Government Committee's amendment, Senator Carsten's amendment, whosever it is is fair. I think 14 percent fits today's problem. I don't know where it is going to change to. I wish I did. I think I could make some money if I knew. But I think 14 percent is a real across the board figure. You can't borrow money for 14 percent today, and I doubt if you will be in the near future, but I hope maybe you can. I would certainly be pleased if you could. I think the 14 percent is a compromise, some want 16, some want 15, and Senator Burrows wants 12. Fourteen is two above, and 14 is two below what the most of you want, so I hope that we can get this bill moved on at 14 percent. Thank you.