

it through the Constitution in state law, now we are turning it over to cities and villages in terms of who is going to pay, not pay, and so on. I am a little concerned about whether it is all the magic that it is promised to be.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle. We are speaking to the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I don't know whether the Beutler amendment improves it any or not, but I would like to follow up with what Senator DeCamp was talking about. I think this whole system flies in the face of a local taxing authority. We just had a bill before the Revenue Committee yesterday complaining because counties were not using the authority that they had or using it properly to get valuation. And I don't believe that the constitutional amendment is a correct way either. I think that puts it in stone and you know what it is like to get something out of the Constitution once it is in there. I think we may want to change our mind over the years in how we handle this even if it does look like a good idea right now. So I strongly oppose putting it in the Constitution. I think it should be handled by statutes. And the pressures would be enormous to declare blighted areas if this thing ever took off. It would be a terrific advantage to have a blighted area, and I think we have a good example, and I am not complaining about what the City of Lincoln is doing with the Cornhusker improvement, but let's say you own the Hilton Hotel or you own the Clayton House, if tax forgiveness was given for five years on this new development, which is the way I read the bill, those businesses would be at a terrific disadvantage and I just don't believe that is right. I think the taxing authority should be kept at the county level where you can appeal your assessment if you don't like it and where they set the tax. So I strongly oppose this whole situation. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the Beutler amendment. I recognize that again he is trying to limit the scope of the bill. I think that is the least we could do. I would just like to point out again as I have before, you could call an area like Bellwood, for example, a small community of 400 people, the east side of the main street totally deserted. West side we have got a couple of pool