

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I won't repeat a great deal of the testimony that has been given, but there is one thing, of all the volume of mail and telephone calls I have received, and I imagine everyone in here has received many letters, many phone calls on it, the only correspondence or phone calls that I have received has been from county officials. I have not received one letter or one phone call from a constituent or a taxpayer in my district that said they didn't like the bill. I think maybe the county officials, they probably have a reason that they don't want to publish my name or your name or whatever. But just remember, I think all of the correspondence we have received has been from county officials, and I doubt if any of you have received any phone calls, any messages from constituents or taxpayers in your district. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, you know, all of us who are candidates for office and who are elected for office like to speak about the evils of the property tax and the burdensome property tax system. One of the points we fail to make frequently is that it is not easy to pay property taxes. It is hard to pay property taxes. I think Senator Landis gave the best argument you can give against this bill, and I do have an IPP motion on the bill, but I am going to hold it for awhile because I believe we ought to discuss the bill a little bit. You are going to find, as you travel through life, that property taxes are always a burden upon people, but that responsible property owners make every effort they can to pay those property taxes. Frequently, it is not possible for them to pay them on time, but, as Senator Landis pointed out, a 14 percent rate of interest is a powerful incentive to those of us who have difficulty paying those property taxes, because even the exorbitant rates that are charged by many banks today, most of them would not have the arrogance to charge you 14 percent, at least not to pay your taxes. I want to point out that it seems to me that today the system works pretty well. The rates of collection cited by Senator Wehrbein point out that the system is working well and, again, I don't know of hardly a single tax sale that has taken place in my area in a long, long time, and I would think that proves the fact that if and when the individual has the money, they will pay those taxes. A few years ago, quite a few years ago, there was discussion on this floor along