

county. It is true, like Senator Schmit says, that it follows the land. I agree with that, but I can remember vividly how many thousands of dollars we had to write off at the county level in times past because taxes weren't paid. People that owe them leave the country, and what happens, I don't know. Now, admittedly, legitimately landowners have problems. You talk about the 14 percent, but we are getting to the point now where it is going to be cheaper to let that money go, and let the county carry your interest rate than it is to borrow the money. If we have just a little bit more interest, increase in interest, you are going to see that more and more. It was rampant a few years ago when we had 18 to 20 percent interest how many people let that go. So the system is abused both ways. Many cases now, people don't know that their taxes are delinquent until they read them in the paper because of the escrow account. Companies don't pay, insurance companies, come the first of May, or those that are holding those in escrow account, not necessarily insurance, but banks and other places, will hold that money and use it as long as they can. For one reason or another, they may not even pay the taxes when they are due. And so it is a cash flow management deal that is there, and this, when people have paid in an escrow account over the year and then not have their tax payments. Many times they don't know this until they read in the paper that they have delinquent taxes. As far as increasing cost to the county, I deny that because any increase in printing...cost of printing will be borne by the taxpayer, themselves. My estimate is that this would increase the cost of printing approximately 20 percent and not 50 percent. If you take, depending on how many lines that a property description takes, you can simply add that. If it is three lines, it would be a third increase. If it is four lines, it would be a 25 percent. If it is five lines, it would be a 20 percent increase, only one additional line. In addition to that, if we are only spending, in the case of my county, \$2,700, that, I can't see how any newspaper is going to necessarily get rich on that; \$2,700 is not much of a printing cost in relation to \$500,000 in delinquent taxes, and nearly that much, \$396,000 that are over a year old. And I know that some of those taxes, I admit, I goofed, I should have gone back to '83, and '84, and '85, and I would predict that at least 1 percent, 1 percent of a million is \$120,000. I know that is not big money to everybody but it is to me, and I think anything that we can do to improve the performance of proficiency and the efficiency of our government, whether it be school or local, should be something that we should consider. So I don't think