

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members, a question of Senator Beutler, if he would. Senator Beutler, when the bill was before the Banking and Insurance Committee, we had a discussion about the issue of how the bill will affect appraisers in the counties. There was a commission that was put together by the Governor that dealt with the issue of basically professionalizing the appraisal process across the state from county to county and using statewide data bank, if you will, and some other things that have been advanced out of the committee and have been dealt with on the floor, have been addressed over the last couple of years by the Legislature. We exempt, in 203, the issue of appraisers who happen to work for a subdivision of government from the requirements here, the professional nature, if you will, that 203 would bring to the profession. Would you be willing to look at an amendment, and I did not have an opportunity to draft it prior to debating this bill on General File, but would you be willing to look at an amendment that would have a provision in it that said we need to address the issue of professionalizing the county assessors' offices, those appraisers that they have there? Many of them don't have any now. They need them there, frankly. That was the one issue that was...one of the issues that was the consensus on the part of the commission when we studied this is that there had to be a professionalization movement, an upgrade in the county assessors' offices, and that meant that they had to hire competent, professional appraisers, to begin with. Currently, under 203, we exempt those individuals. Would you, Senator Beutler, be willing to look at an amendment on Select File that would give those counties five years in which to move in this direction, to meet the requirements that 203 would place on every other appraiser that functions outside of the other exemptions that are listed in the bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Senator Hall, I certainly agree with your goal. I agree with what the commission is suggesting and, consequently, I would entertain that possibility. However, having said that, I think you're fully aware of the sensitivity of this matter and if the result of that amendment would be to endanger the passage of the bill, I just couldn't, in good faith, do that. However, something could be worked out.

SENATOR HALL: And, Senator Beutler, I appreciate that. I...my question is...and I tried to ask it off the record so that I could have a feel for how to ask it and you were just being riddled with questions so I wasn't able to get that done. But