

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: LB 1063, you mean?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I guess since it broadens the tax base, and that would probably qualify it for calling it a tax increase, yes. Broadens the tax base, whether it lowers or raises the mill levy, I don't know, but in some cases, it will, perhaps.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Folks, I would like to call your attention, on page 234, it specifically states, "A county board may increase property taxes by a specific dollar amount greater than that permitted by subsection (1) of this section not to exceed the dollar amount of reduction in state aid to the county resulting from the changes made to Section 77... by this legislative bill." Now if you look over here on the sheet that I passed out, just look at how much some of these counties lose. Boone County loses \$60,000; Cedar, 51,000; Chase, 40; Dawson, 73,000; Frontier, 33; Gage, 62,000; Knox, 60,000; Lancaster, 60,000; Lincoln County, 66,000; Perkins, a real small county, 35,000; Pierce, 42; Saline, 45. Now these counties lose that in state aid. So that is why on page 234 they give the counties the authority to go over the budget, that 5 percent or whatever it is that raise their taxes, because they lose money. Now you can imagine what is going to happen to these counties who lose money when the county board raises their taxes. Now somebody might tell you, well the valuation goes up; the mill levy can stay the same because the valuation goes up. Well, what if it doesn't go up enough, folks? What if a county board says, hey, we are only losing 45,000 in Saline County, let's raise the budget 45,000. We have got the authority in the bill to do that. The authority in the bill is on page 234. So it behooves me folks how you can sit and vote for this bill, especially for the part that allows them to raise taxes. Now Douglas County only loses 19,000. They only lose 19,000, which doesn't mean too much to Douglas County. But you take Knox County is a small county, they lose \$60,000; Gage, 62,000; Adams, 50,000, 47,080. So I would strongly suggest that you folks who are going to support 1063, and I think the votes here to support 1063 are here, just be prepared, when you get home, to defend yourself as to why property taxes went up, when you know and I know that the citizens out in the country, or out in the city, or out in the urban areas, wherever, in...