for opening on the bill. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, currently
in 1119 requires that all elected and many appointed officials
be bonded individually when they take office. The bond market
has been offering a blanket bond which does not name specific
individuals but allows a governmental body to cover all of its
elected and appointed officials as well as employees with one
bond.   Many counties that purchase these blanket bonds at the
much lower cost than all of the individual bonds that they have
to secure independently.   However, state law still requires
individual bonds so many of those counties have to go back and
buy the individual bonds as well as the blanket bond. Certainly
it's not necessary for these counties to have to have both.
What LB 179 would do is simply allow blanket bonds to meet the
statutory bond requirement for county officials. It's really
unnecessary to require all of these individual bonds if, in
fact, a blanket bond can be purchased which provides the same
type of coverage. Also these blanket bonds can be purchased at
a much lower price than all of the individual bonds added
together which will provide a small savings to   property
taxpayers.   When the bond requirements were first written for
the public officials it was well intended to have these
individual bonds but the statute has not kept up with the
marketplace. This bill was heard in Government Committee and
advanced with no opposition.   I think the bill is very
straightforward, it tells you exactly what it does and with that
I'd answer any questions if anybody has any. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad, for discussion, followed by
Senator Jones.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Would Senator Vrtiska yield for a couple of
questions?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, I would.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska, would you envision that each
of the county officials would still have to sign a personal
indemnification agreement?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well it's my understanding that there are many
counties who have been buying these and I'm not exactly sure