

Richardson County with their problem. I've been working with the Governor and with people in his Governor's staff, trying to deal with some...because I think it's a critical situation down in Richardson County. I think if any of you had this same issue in your county, you'd probably feel the same as they do that it has become very critical to them because of the lack of funds to carry on the everyday business of the county. There's even talk they may have to shut down the courthouse for a period of time each week or perhaps lay off some people in order to get back on track as far as their finances are concerned. I want to address one other issue I think it was brought up that is certainly important and it was brought out about what the levies of a county are. You'll notice on the sheet that back in '85 they only had .25 and they're now up to .46. And the question was brought to me by, not anybody on this floor, but by an individual who said, well, why didn't they go to 50 cents and they could have covered some of their costs at some time during this process? I've got to tell you part of the rationale that Richardson County used and it's certainly legitimate. Richardson County had done a reevaluation in their county down there and you could sit on one side of the county line and go across the county line and land was being taxed at a great deal higher rate in Richardson County than it was in the other counties, In order to make it balance, and that's what you have to do, in order to make it balance across county lines, it was necessary for them not to go to the extreme of 50 cents because actually the people in that county were being taxed, as far as their dollars were concerned, as high a rate as they were in some of the surrounding counties and it was a difficult issue for them to deal with. I think at this present time from what I've been able to learn, they're probably going to have to bite the bullet because most of the counties are now back on target more closely with their valuations and no doubt they will be at 50 cents down there. I can tell you that my county of Pawnee has been at 50 cents for the last six years, and had this happened to Pawnee County, I'll be very frank and tell you that the county would now be bankrupt. They could not have absorbed this kind of cost in the county and been able to maintain the necessary things that are needed in a county because they would not have had any money to do it. It would have taken, with a county our size, all the money that they would have with their total appropriation and I guess this is one of the reasons I became very excited about that last murder that took place down there and those three people that were killed down there. It was only a few miles from the county line and I thought many a