

cut back on government, how government needs to pare itself down, how we need to insure that we've become leaner, meaner, how we need to have fewer employees of government, fewer branches or entities of government, not more. And what this bill does is creates a new entity of government. The argument on behalf of it, as Senator Kristensen points out, is that it will possibly cut down on government. It's going to basically provide property tax relief. By spending an additional \$500,000, we're going to allow for \$5,400 worth of property tax relief in each of the 93 counties in its first year. I don't know how much impact that's going to have with regard to the bill as it's before us, but...and property tax bills that are before each of you, but I'm sure there's folks on the floor that have more than \$5,400 worth of property tax liability back home in their own district. The other issue that we raised with regard to deciding where to put this, as I mentioned it to Mr. Howard, was we thought about putting the commission in the legislative press room, since they were going to out of there effective July 1 of this year, contrary to whatever kind of articles are written. But the real question you have to ask yourself and the reason for this amendment and the reason it needs to be addressed is because folks need to understand they're creating a new entity of government. You're voting to appropriate monies to create a new commission, to hire staff. And you're going to ask them to develop policies, rules, regulations, do studies, collect data and somehow we're going to translate a half million dollars into property tax relief. Go home and talk to the folks back home. Come up to Douglas County, and I know that folks like to refer to Mr. Beemus as Rip Van Beemus, but the argument is, as I listened and read the paper this morning to some of the concerns that people raised, not only at Ak-Sar-Ben last night, but at the community forum that I cochaired with Lieutenant Governor Robak last night, down in south Omaha, that they have serious property tax concerns that aren't going to be met, aren't going to be addressed and shouldn't be, I guess, they shouldn't be cloaked in proposals such as 646 which somehow promise property tax relief, which, in fact, is not going to happen. This is not a property tax relief measure. On its face, it's dishonest to call it that. Now if you want to say the state ought to be involved with supporting counties for purposes of indigent defense, that's one thing. But it does not ensure, nor does it even come close to guaranteeing property tax relief. You could...you would...you could put two zeros behind the \$500,000 and it would still be swallowed up in terms of the kind of property tax problem that