

million dollars. But if this is something that we're actually considering as a property tax relief, I know Douglas County is not going to get any property tax relief with this. You're just going to cost more in taxes with this for our county. And it starts out small like this, with half a million dollars, and then once these things get kicked in and people get rolling on this they'll be back here asking Appropriations for more money, telling them it's for property tax relief, but you never see any corresponding property tax relief. And, to me, you're trying to do so much more than I believe is necessary with this entire committee structure that you've got here, when the problem seems to be that there are a few counties out there in Nebraska that don't have the money to pay for some of their services. And you haven't answered any of Senator Beutler's concerns on how this money will be distributed or what counties will be allowed to participate. You refused to adopt Senator Lindsay's amendments to put some of those answers into this bill. So this bill is left exactly as it is, with none of these questions answered, and with enough votes apparently to go ahead from General File. I continue to not understand how people can advance these kinds of bills that, to me, are not in the shape to become law in the State of Nebraska, and I hope people will just give it one last thought before you advance it as to whether any of the questions that were brought up by myself, Senator Beutler, Senator Lindsay, Senator Hall, whether any of those questions have been answered. And I don't see this as a problem. Senator Hall, I know, got very upset because the bill didn't go to Judiciary Committee. But that...that's...we're past that now. We are supposed to be considering this piece of legislation for itself. And if you look at this piece of legislation, it isn't doing what it says. It's not giving property tax relief, it's not setting up a fund for counties to use. It's giving half a million dollars to set up a committee and it kind of looks like on a first-come first-served basis here, with a lot more structure, I think, that will cost a lot more money than needs to be done to solve the problem. So I will not vote to advance this bill, although I understand there is a problem and I want to help with that problem, but I don't think this is the solution for it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Avery, Will, Beutler and Robinson.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I am amused or amazed, excuse me, amazed when I hear people say