

They feel that their levy should drop so that their tax rate drops on their property taxes. But the valuation, at least in my particular district, has not been a big, big concern. And I am somewhat disturbed about the loss of local control in the valuation process and the feeling that somehow politics plays a part in determining these valuations. And I haven't seen that as a particular case. I haven't seen that as a particular case in Douglas County, maybe it exists, I'm not aware of it. I don't get complaints brought to me. There's a greater concern that there's a lack of flexibility shown in our local board and when they reevaluate the property. We did have valuation reevaluation in '85 and we're, I believe, going to be having another one, I'm not sure, as a result of the State Board of Equalization. And that may have, in fact, solved a lot of the problems where the state board came forward and said we feel that these valuations are too low and you should do something about it. I thought by the actions of the state board that that dealt with that problem. And they seem to have been able to handle it. And since we already have the State Board of Equalization, maybe there isn't a need to establish another bureaucracy in Lincoln to deal with the property tax problem. That's a question to be answered by each one of us. A greater concern is though what will be the perception of the public by the passage of this bill? Will they perceive this as somehow raising their property taxes? And I feel at a time when property taxes are of high concern to people across the state that's what we need to be looking at. We need to be looking at the perception of bills that we will be enacting. And it appears that two people that I've been contacted by in my district, that this will be a way for property taxes to be raised by a commission, based in Lincoln, on their local county of Douglas. Maybe I'm wrong on that. A few years ago I passed a bill that provided for language which I hoped would keep the mill levy at the same proportional level as when the valuations were increased. The bill was passed by the Legislature after a great deal of discussion. And the bill was never followed by the governmental agencies. And maybe what needs to occur is some additional language needs to be placed in the statute that will try to address the concerns of our citizens, that when valuations are revalued, when the property is revalued their levies tend not to drop but to remain the same, and as a result their taxes go up. So there may be... I may be looking at an amendment to be added onto this bill before its eventual passage by this Legislature. And that will probably come, I assume, on Final Reading. I do have a concern, I will not be voting to