

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...who have concerns or reservations about this, give you an opportunity to speak your...to speak your views on it. I am not going to take this to the wall, but I am serious about considering the merits of the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. Let me make it real plain. You know I wish I had this handout when I debated the bill. I wish I had Senator Bromm's handout because do you know what this handout shows me? Senator Stuhr, this handout shows me that there is...everything is fine with property tax, that there is no problem with equalization in valuation in this state because nobody in these counties appealed in 1994 except for four people. Property taxes and valuations must be fine in this state. Wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong, and I will tell you why, and the problem is that not enough people understand how seriously unfair this system is right now, and I am not talking about the burden of property tax because that is an issue everyone of us can talk about. My property taxes are too high, I know that. I am talking about fundamental fairness, and fundamental fairness comes in equalization in valuation. You tell me that it's fair that because you live on one side of a neighborhood or on one side of the road and your property is valued somewhere between 60 and 80 percent differently than the other piece of property, and you live in the same school district, and just because you live in different counties, you pay different tax. That's not fair. And the problem is the only way you are going to get fairness and equalization in this state, this has nothing to do with assessors, and you have got a bunch of assessors out there who are hardworking people, but you've also got a bunch of them who are scared to death because people are starting to examine the system of assessment and valuation, and they are starting to examine equalization, and they don't like it. And so they are going to come to their senators and say, I'm...we don't want that big bad state in there and, oh, we can't have another commission. We are going to take the court system out of it. We are going to take the delays of the district court out of here. We are going to take the expense of litigation out of here and put it into a system that is easier, and the best way to do this is for people at the local level to take their