

restructuring where it's appropriate, for picking up, perhaps, some systems on the state level where it's appropriate, and do those things in a systematic and continuous way, over a period of time, starting, I think, right now. And I think we are beginning to do that and we'll see that with the property tax relief package when that comes out of Senator Warner's committee. At the same time, it seemed to me, though, that it was also undeniable that there had to be some kind of safety "val" on the system which can be so incongruous and uneven in the short term over a period of one, or two, or three years upon political...particular political subdivisions within the system. Now you may argue that the system should be revised so the local entities can withstand these ups and downs over a period of time, and that may well be the case, but that still does not deal with the interim fact that these structures exist and that there are, as illustrated by Richardson County, some very real exceptions to the general rule that the local should take care of itself. Furthermore, and I think we should think about this also in terms of the interim benefit of the type of bill that Senator Vrtiska is suggesting, we are in the process now, and if we approve of what comes out of the Revenue Committee with respect to property tax caps, levy caps, we're going to be in the process of clamping down on the local political subdivisions. Now I think that without a doubt, if we do that, as we start into that process we're going to find that certain political subdivisions can no longer bear the pressure. And either we're going to need a safety...we may well need an interim safety "val", like this, to accommodate that particular transition process also. And so I think what Senator Vrtiska is doing for a different reason is going to build in very nicely into what we're attempting to do with property tax reductions. We will have to watch this very closely, obviously. But you know this whole process of filing the claims is going to have a very instructive value to us also because we're going to begin to see the whys and wherefores of the extreme pressure that may be created either by the existing system or by our property taxes, and that will help us identify and deal with those aspects of the system that are creating the claims that would come through this particular process that Senator Vrtiska is setting up. So I can't say I feel 100 percent comfortable with this. I don't think anybody is going to feel 100 percent comfortable with it. But I think it's well worth the experiment, especially in terms...especially if property tax relief,...