

of the committee amendments, which are now, of course, the bill. I, too, am somewhat...oh, I wouldn't say that there is going to be no consolidation, but I am not all that optimistic there is going to be mass consolidations after the passage of this bill. But Section 43 and 44, I believe, is what the heart and soul of the bill is about. This is the part of the bill that I'm most excited about that I think will have a very real impact on how this government in Nebraska and the 3,004 political subdivisions does business. Section 43 and 44 proposes to change the procedure of levying taxes by political subdivisions. County clerks would set a preliminary rate for each subdivision by September, the 10th, of each year based on the previous year's property tax asking divided by the current year's valuation. The preliminary rate would be then published in newspapers of the area. The political subdivision could change the levy by passing an ordinance or resolution by October, the 15th, after a public hearing is held on the issue. If no ordinance or resolution is passed, the levy would become final. What, in effect, this does is some of the complaints that I've heard, at least, in my district among my constituents, is that the property valuations, let's say, have gone up 10 percent, and the levies have not changed, and the local subdivision, that they were concerned about at the time, says that we did not raise your taxes. But, of course, the taxes coming in have, obviously, gone up. This will solve that problem. It should solve that problem forever among these valuation problems. I certainly have no problems with my house, my property valued at 100 percent. My problem is that when your property valuations go up, and your levies do not, that represents a tax increase. Whether the political subdivision is willing to say that or not is a different story. This will solve that problem. This will give Nebraska, the citizens of Nebraska, the taxpayers of Nebraska the ability to hold their political subdivisions accountable. This provides better government. It informs the people what their political subdivisions are doing. It educates them on where the property taxes are going and what the actions that are being taken by the political subdivisions. There is very important offices in this state, but they represent smaller subdivisions. They are the offices on your ballot that are below State Legislature, the Congress, the Senate, and so forth, that sometimes people don't pay too much attention to. With the enactment of 1085, people will start paying close attention to these political subdivision elected representatives. The electorate will become informed. I think this is a wonderful