

far and away are the farmer and there's a lot of good will in the urban areas, including myself, with respect to trying to give the farmers a significant amount of relief on this. And I, you know, and I have to say, quite honestly, that there are some low income, fixed income elderly in my district. I'd like to reduce the property taxes for them, but we don't have to do it this way. I can fight for a homestead exemption every year and we can all go our own way. But, finally, and without bad feeling or major hurt, you know, we are getting together on a tax package that primarily helps the farmer. The long march can't take place all at once. Maybe the farmers feel they would like to have the protection of the constitution, although already they've had the good will of the Legislature for years in holding to the 80 percent valuation. I voted for it. Many of my urban colleagues in here voted for it into statute. I don't think it's in danger. We wouldn't be talking about tax relief generally in this package for farmers primarily if there were really any danger of that 80 percent coming out of the statute. I mean, we'd be going back attacking that, I, we, as an urban senator, would be going back and attacking that rather than help you advance the cause of general significant property tax relief. But there's such a thing as overreaching. Now all of a sudden in this bill we're reaching out to protect valuations. That wasn't what 292 was about, not to protect any one class of person's valuations. And I thought, I should have spoken earlier too, I thought this was one of those exercises where people state truly and honestly how they feel about something knowing the timing of the thing is not quite right, not quite appropriate and, by golly, the thing passed, perhaps in part because the "Pied Piper" sitting in front of me is leading you in one direction, but he leads you there for a very different reason than you have and he bolsters you up and puts the fighting spirit in you and calls you lions and calls you leaders of the lions so that you won't back off so that his purpose can be served, which I suggest to you has something to do with the package overall and other elements in the package that he does not like and where his path would diverge from your own in the end. So I would ask you to think thoughtfully and think carefully about what we can do today, how we can finish this session in good spirit with not making the whole journey for the farmer but making one heck of a trip this session. And I think it can be done very niftily, very nicely without bad feelings, without this end of the session buildup that we seem to have so often. This has been a great session, you know, when