

an attempt to try and make some changes in our school districts. LB 1234, a bill to reorganize our schools to try and bring greater efficiency, was unable to advance with strong opposition from the education community, and it was an indication to me that we are not seriously looking at major change structurally in our governmental subdivisions. I believe fundamentally that we have too many governmental subdivisions. Mostly among them would be our school districts and if we are ever to achieve the efficiencies that people want in government in this state we are going to have to eventually reconcile these subdivisions and whether or not the local control that they bring are worth the inefficiency that they bring as well to the delivery of services. That is the trade-offs that we will have to eventually consider as we pursue implementation of the legislation in this property tax package. There is some good to be achieved through the pressures applied by lids, by forcing people to examine carefully their structure by the relationships that they have, the opportunities they have to reorganize themselves. That is the positive side of reorganization. That is the positive side of levy limits on property taxes. There is, however, a negative side. It's that negative side of these proposals that concern me greatly. If we ultimately pass this legislation and then do not see a reaction by the subdivisions and then move forward and implement what we're talking about, I see some serious consequences for our schools, for our services that have, I think, built a quality of life in Nebraska second to none. We always rank very high in any city or state figures in terms of the kind of lifestyles that we have in our state. We have good schools. We have good education. We are relatively safe compared to other states. We have some opportunity economically. We have, I think over all, a pretty good road system. We have many other things to be thankful for. That didn't happen by chance. It took money. It took taxes in many cases to make that possible. Now to apply pressure and then not recognize that we may have to revisit and we will have to revisit next year and the following year and every year afterwards, not to apply too much pressure but to apply the proper amount of pressure. In medical terms, we all know that there are times in which we must apply pressure to heal wounds to bleeding and to stop that. Other times, you apply too much pressure and the consequence is very, very bad on the health of the individual involved. So pressure can be good. It can lead to change that can be constructive. Pressure can be bad. It can lead to consequences we can't even imagine at this time. So