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SENATOR WICKERSHAM:    Yes.

SENATOR KIEL:    Just a couple things so that folks do know what's going on, is most of the valuation increases that they're talking about are expected to range from 7 percent to nearly 20 percent and they're going to be on houses that have received increases in 1998 also. So, again, we're hitting, or maybe I should say people in Douglas County are getting hit with double and triple valuation increases. And I also understand that other counties have undergone this and I certainly sympathize with them. The panel is going to be meeting May 12th to discuss the specific across-the-board valuation increase, so that's why I'm interested right now in seeing if there's not something that we might be able to do in the meantime. The state-ordered increase would be in addition to the valuation increases that the county assessor has set for 92,000 parcels, and approximately 80,000 of those valuation changes are on houses, mainly in the form of fixed percentage increases aimed at helping valuations catch up with rising market prices. But I would submit to you that the purpose of valuation on homes is not simply to help valuations catch up with rising market prices but to inject some sort of fairness into the process, and this will do nothing to inject fairness into the process. All it will do with...will...is to maintain the same inequities that we are seeing now and a house that may be valued at 100 percent, if the 7 percent increase is put into effect, will be valued at 107 percent, and a house that's valued at 60 percent will be valued at 67 percent, and there will be no effort to ensure that these houses are valued equitably. And I would hope that the board, the panel, would receive this message and attempt to find some way to allow the county assessor to do his job, which he is doing, and provide for an equitable process in property valuations as opposed to, again, an inequitable across-the-board valuation increase. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:    Thank you, Senator Kiel.      Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM:    Mr. President, I want to be brief, but I do think a couple of things need to be noted. One, as I noted earlier, there's an appeal process that Douglas County, as a