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May 12 when TERC makes its decision, because we may well have to bring back the homestead exemption bill and increase the valuation cap, because we will already have people who will not be able to qualify for the homestead exemption because their valuations have gone up past the cap. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable President. I appreciate Senator Quandahl bringing this issue before us. I think the core of what we're attempting to do is agree that there does need to be equalization of the property values across the state. But there are many methods of reaching that equalization. And when you have someone in a position to move slowly, to resist that equalization within a county, when you have a county assessor who is unwilling to listen or to move forward, then you take a more heavy-handed approach. When you have someone who is willing to cooperate, someone who is asking for more staff...in this case, in Douglas County, when you have a new assessor who is genuinely serious about trying to make the property valuations equal throughout the county, then it seems to me that you work with somebody like that. You don't come in with the heavy-handed approach, and once again has happened before in Douglas County, and say, we think you should have an across-the-board property value increase. In a case where you've got somebody willing to work with you, it seems, from my perspective anyway, that you work with that person, and you do it in a way where you allow them some time to be able to accomplish that. I think that's the situation we're in in Omaha and in Douglas County. We are making, I think, very good...not just attempts, but serious efforts at actually getting equalization. And when that assessor, as I believe Senator Hilgert said earlier, starts with himself and increases his own valuation on his own property and sets that as an example so that he's paying more of his fair share relative to his neighbors and others who have similar...or should have similar valuations, then I think that's a good sign that something is happening. And to then penalize Douglas County for a good effort seems wrong-hearted and meanspirited almost, to me. Although there is an appeal process, and I appreciate that appeal process, many of the elderly that I represent are folks who are not used to questioning authority or going to anybody to