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January 31, 2005 LB 261

frankly, Senator Chambers, even though we get a response from some that seems to justify their existence, there are always questions about that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And time is up, so I don't want to cut you off, but I may ask you another question or two. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Louden. Senator Louden, you're recognized to speak if you care to.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the As I was listening to the dialog here, I guess I come to think what brought to mind was that fellow that carried that lantern around, I think Diogenes was his name. He was asking, looking for an honest man. And Senator Chambers was asking the question of what harm does this board do, and I don't know if he ever got his answer or not, and I didn't notice he was carrying a lantern yet. But my estimation is it doesn't do any harm, never has done harm. It's always done good. This is an organization that was put together back in the 90s there. Shortly after it was formed, two or three years, I think more authority was given to the property tax administrator so some of their authority was cut away from them. So I think that has to be considered. But at the present time, there are still these boards that are still in operation. They meet whenever they're designated to meet. They go over what they're going to do with their valuations, not only valuations; like I said, marketing There's all kinds of topics that are brought up in discussions. The one that we have out there covers 11 counties which intakes the entire panhandle of Nebraska, and this is no small area to get organized and have some people meet on a regular basis, to discuss problems and measures that might arise. And when we get back to it again, there is no harm done. Why are we trying to do away with a board that doesn't cost us anything, doesn't cause anybody harm. And I think we could go back to that Hippocratic Oath that, first of all you do no harm. And I think that's what we have to go from this point forward. still cannot support LB 261. I would support Senator Chambers' amendment to indefinitely postpone if he so desires to leave it up there. Thank you.