

May 31, 1995

LB 490
LR 3

have been Senator Schimek, although I am not sure it was her, I think it might have been, handed out on General or Select File a list of the commissions and state boards that we have, and there are 222 of them without the commission that we are creating. And if you look at that list, which was several pages long, you have to ask yourself, is this the only alternative. This commission, according to the fiscal note, will cost us about \$217,000 in the first fiscal year, \$329,000 in the second fiscal year, and I think as commissions go, it will only increase in terms of costs. LR 3CA that we just voted to send to the voters will have an operative date of January 1 of '97. It will be voted on, unless the reconsideration is successful, in the fall of '96. I would argue that if the...if the voters do agree to abolish the State Board of Equalization, we will have to have something like 490, but I don't want to put another commission in place before we know if that's what the voters want to do. I just...I just don't think that it's necessary. Our real problem out there with the counties is finding enough money and enough resources to do a proper job of evaluation of property, and if we want to put some resources into something, I think if we were to figure out a way to help them with uniform appraisals, either provide for that at the state level, or by some means of providing a subsidy for them to do it, I think that would be of greater assistance than spending the money for a commission, such as we are contemplating in this bill. I understand the rationale behind the bill. There are some good things to be said about it, without a doubt, but, for my part, I don't want it unless the voters approve LR 3CA. I don't want to create another commission. I don't think it's the only answer to our assessment problems. There is another factor on the horizon that is going to be decided within the next year, year and a half, and that is what direction our entire property tax system is going to take, and if we should, by some stretch of the imagination, vote to significantly reduce the emphasis on property tax, or perhaps do away with it for certain purposes, the justification or the need for a commission like this would be greatly diminished. And I would suggest that that's going to be decided in the not too distant future. I don't see the urgency. I don't see the need to do this right now. I would even feel a little bit better, perhaps, doing it next session if we are going to do it after we see a little bit more about what direction some of these things are going to take, such as the property tax question. It is for those reasons that I suggest returning the bill to postpone the effective date. I will want to hear, if there are any other senators...