

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, LB 8 was introduced last session. Its prime purpose is to bring about the use of a statewide computer assisted assessment procedure. I know that most of us feel comfortable in here that the counties have now met the law saying that they shall or have assessed according to the laws that we have mandated. I am still not convinced that even though the counties say they are there, that we are going to remain there very long, and I submit to you unless this body seriously considers bringing in a computer assisted type of assessment, we are going to find ourselves in the same kinds of frustrations that we are in right now. Already those counties who, a couple years ago, met the law are probably falling behind and those who are just getting there now, such as Douglas and Lancaster, will be behind again in a few years. There is only one way to handle assessment, and that is by a computer, and I submit to you that if a computer wasn't a useful tool then the biggest businesses in this nation would not be using them so prolifically. Even this body uses a computer in its daily activities...maybe not with our minds but at least we do to do most of our printing. I know the county officials are those who do not believe in this type of thing, but our role as a state government is to see to it that the county officials in spite of some of their blindness do have the best tools available and most importantly that the citizens of this state are sure of assessment procedure which is fair and proportionate and equitable, and this has not been true. We are faced with all kinds of lids as you well know, and I submit to you one of the biggest reasons we are looking at lids today is not because the people want to enforce that upon committees, it is because they are completely frustrated and angry over assessments which have finally caught up with them, and you know as well as I do if a property has not been assessed for fifteen years with inflation and real increase of costs and values, that when you get a three hundred percent increase you are going to be upset, because for a long time you were getting a free ride, other people were paying for it. Now suddenly you are going to have to get in the same wagon and help pay. For us to sit around and to ignore the fact that we cannot improve assessment procedures I think is negligent on our part. It is time that we did this. Senator Carsten has treated the bill and he has worked with me and so have many of you worked with me on both LB 170 and LB 8, but even those of us who are supposed to have positions of leadership as to chairpeople could not see fit last year to bring about some kind of a bill that we could put into force over a period of years so that within several years this whole state