

vote for this issue in committee relates a little bit to some of the things that have been indicated, one, if the county supervisors are to set the budget to expend the money, then certainly it should be the county supervisors to whom those who are being taxed have access to express that objection. I raised the question in committee as to how many cases were heard this year in Lancaster County and the answer was in the vicinity of two thousand. But when I asked how many cases were heard two years ago before the infamous 518 brought about all this tragedy, there were only about two hundred cases. So now we are going to make it available to the commissioners to opt out of what I consider their prime responsibility of facing up to their constituents based on an influx of a very unusual year which will very quickly subside to the old two or three hundred objections that used to be pretty much run of the mill, and of course in the smaller counties even fewer than that. I do not think it is wise to let the commissioners divest themselves of responsibility for their actions in regard to the county budget which really determines the dollars involved. I think the fact of appraisal is pretty well established and out of the way. But I would like to see the commissioners responsible for their actions.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I was ready to support Senator Beutler's bill for Lancaster County because I know they do have a lot of requests for variations in their tax, but I think Senator Murphy hit it on the head, it is still the responsibility of the county board and I will tell you what, if I have an objection to my taxes and I can't settle it with the assessor, I don't want any referee around, because I want somebody that can take some action and who knows exactly what I am talking about and has the authority to do it. In my own county when we had a problem and we couldn't settle it any other way, we went out and visited the property. I realize that that is difficult when you have a lot of them like we had this last year. But that responsibility is the county board's...the county Board of Equalization, no one else's. Now the first thing you do, and Bill Nichol talked about it, if you don't like what happened or if you think you are paying more taxes than your neighbor, you go to the assessor. He will show you the maps, the charts, pictures, the cards, of your property along with your neighbors or anybody else's you want to see. Usually...I say usually, unless it is a very unique thing and you have an assessor that is a little bit... has a little bit of foresight, he is going to settle that.