

I believe the body was skeptical that the people would approve Amendment 4. But the people then voted for Amendment 4. So when the Revenue Committee convened, in January, and had before it folk from the Nebraska Department of Revenue, there genuinely was not a solution offered that would have worked well and efficiently and preserved what appears to have been the basic desire on the part of the farm and ranch groups, which was to "preserve the status quo." I wish you would ask yourself what was meant by that because preserving the status quo means lots and lots of different kinds of things. In any event the Revenue Committee entertained eight different legislative solutions put forward by Senator Warner, Senator Carsten, Senator Schmit, and two by the Revenue Department. It became painfully clear that each of those proposed solutions was going to result in higher valuations for farm and ranch land than the 1984 land manual. So it became quite clear that a true solution has yet to be developed. Now the farming communities...the farming associations, such as the Farm Bureau Federation, or the Farmers Union and the like, have a sense as to what it is they would like for us to do. But when that sense is actualized into statutory form it results in a valuation figure which is substantially higher than our committee believes those groups would like for us to effect. For that reason, the committee has appointed a special task force, chaired by Senator David Landis, who, as you all know, is a very skilled member of the Revenue Committee, is, I think, extraordinarily good at finding solutions where solutions are very difficult, is an excellent person at compromise, and it has also appointed Senator Jerry Miller and Senator Carson Rogers, who are two new members of the committee who come from farming communities, who are sensitive to this issue. In addition, the committee is looking to certain county officials, as well as Department of Revenue officials, as well as a member of the farm lobby, to meet and, in the next month's time, to come back to the committee with a tentative solution. If the committee approves the solution it will be on the floor between now and the end of the legislative session. If it is not approved by this body it is only because this body has become balky. But I know the committee does not have the will to be balky. The committee wants, very much, to make