

Johnson has expressed some concern that if you used a straightforward formula, as I understand it, Alliance might lose \$250,000. It is my recollection that they gained far more than that when they did their original formula change a few years ago. I'm going to vote to adopt the committee amendments. I simply alert the body to this fact because we seem to forget one year we create one inequity and the next year we come and try to solve it and then we say, well, we can't hurt the one that got the big windfall in the first place. The real reason I rose on this bill, it is my understanding that there are 3,000 pieces of railroad property in this state completely independent of railroad operation. Those 3,000 pieces actually have buildings or other things located on them which are completely as I say independent of the railroad operation. They are properties the railroads owned or acquired or had, maybe going back as much as a hundred years. They currently are rented by independent businessmen across the length and breadth of Nebraska. I have been trying to determine whether in all the formulas for valuation and taxation of railroad property, these properties, these 3,000 properties have been dealt with distinctly and separately and fairly and equally with other property located in an area or whether they are simply lumped into the overall formula. I have not been able to find, but maybe I'm wrong, but I have not been able to find thus far that they are being treated the same as other property in the communities of Nebraska and being taxed separately and independently. If that is the case, it is my intent to attempt to amend this bill on Select File to make sure that these 3,000 pieces of property which may not be taxed properly now do get on the tax rolls in a proper and fair manner. Let me use a specific example so you understand what I am talking about. Let us assume in, I'll pick a town, Elgin, Nebraska, let us assume for the sake of argument that the railroad owns some property there and on that property is located a processing plant for cattle and livestock, in other words, a slaughter house. The railroad owns the ground. The building is located physically on the ground. The owner of the building traditionally would pay the "personal property taxes" on the building itself, the business equipment I guess you'd call it, but I have not been able to determine that that property, that land is being treated the same as any other real estate in that town in terms of taxation. If it is, I would have no reason for amending this bill. If it isn't, as we discussed in depth in the Public Works Committee, then I think this is a good