

this statute was, it was a relatively simple change. It said that if you are going to have valuation of property, then it should be on actual valuation. Prior to that time, it was at 35 percent. So actual valuation was considered 100 percent. And it was a good idea, it was a great idea actually. It kept everything in balance. All the local subdivisions, all the counties were supposed to be in compliance with it, and I believe Lancaster County is in compliance with it, but some of the counties have not been in compliance with it, such as Douglas County, which is at 90 percent at this time, and Sarpy County, which is at 85 percent. But what happened was they came with the valuation and said we are going to increase the valuation to 100 percent this year, which meant last year, the local county officials and a few other ones, and that was in keeping with Nebraska state statutes. They were trying to comply with the law. Unfortunately there was a great deal of confusion about this valuation process. What I tried to do with this bill was simply try to take the Legislature off the hook. I just said what we are going to do here is say, yeah, you can increase your valuation to 100 percent but then it has to be reduced accordingly. It doesn't really change a whole heck of a lot but what it says to the people up in Douglas County is that we are not the ones increasing your property taxes. What it says to the people in Sarpy County is that we are not the ones increasing your property taxes. What it says to the people in all the counties, the 93 counties across this state, is that the State Legislature is not increasing your property taxes. Now it was a rather interesting comment I heard on Viewpoint, Channel 7 last week. Mayor Boyle was on and Mayor Boyle made the statement that the City of Omaha was the only subdivision in Douglas County that didn't take advantage or the reevaluation. Now I don't know whether that was accurate or not but I think it goes along with the line with thinking that somehow the Nebraska Legislature was in cahoots with a few of these other groups in trying to raise the property taxes. It is a simple bill. It is a noncontroversial bill. I am surprised we are even having a little bit of discussion on it, but I think with trying to do away with a little bit of the confusion, maybe we can get on with other legislation. Thank you. I support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers, please.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the