

me what we accomplished with a bill that gave us a state rock, a state weed, a state flower, a state song, a state fish, and yet we introduced that legislation and passed it. Now I agree with Senator Abboud, and I am not a co-sponsor of this bill, that it will accomplish something because it is a first step. It is telling those county boards this is a warning, and do this again and next year there may be a lid on your levy. At least, Senator Abboud, that is the way I am interpreting it. You are being a nice guy, you and the other proponents of this bill, and sending out a warning that the next time you take advantage of the taxpayers of this state and you take a windfall, a literal windfall after paying a company a half a million dollars to come in and revalue the property, then you raise the taxes. I think this bill will accomplish something, it will send a message, and if it doesn't accomplish what the proponents intend to, then I am sure that next year there probably will be a bill in here to say we are going to limit the levy. We are going to put a tax lid back on and tell them that in cold facts, no more do you pay a company a half a million dollars to come in and raise the values so that we can then raise the taxes. I urge the adoption of this bill because I think it is a lot more important than a state rock, and a state flower, and a state insect, and all the other idiotic things that previous legislatures have passed. Thank you, Senators.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch, then Senator Remmers.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know government receives the greatest benefit from inflation and we have seen that in the past through a decade of inflation where our government has grown and received the benefit of inflation, has grown rapidly and yet can point to a fact that they don't raise the mill levy or that they are holding the actual levy down. There is no awareness by the taxpayer. They know the amount is going up but everybody keeps saying we are keeping our levy, or we are cutting our levy, but they know that the amount is going up, and I don't think that that should be the case, that this bill simply states that when there is an increase in the levy that that will signify that there has been an increase in the budget, not just that the valuation has increased from inflation. Accountability is really the key word here and that does place the accountability with those who raise the property tax and spend the property tax. I hope you will support