

SENATOR NICHOL: Now if you're absolutely fair, and you certainly are, you've always been more than fair, what is fair about your county not having a reappraisal, and my county having a reappraisal, and still we're treated differently just because one county doesn't have a reappraisal?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Well, Mr. President, in response to Senator Nichol's question, what we're attempting to get out here is the fact that we want these valuations raised in terms of the exemption, but we're trying to decide how you do that in terms of counties that have gone through reappraisal, which has created the problem why there is a reduction in terms of that homestead exemption. I'm not married to that particular language. It appeared to me as a fair way to say that because of reappraisal there would be the necessity of making some adjustments to make sure that that homestead exemption is returned to each and every citizen, primarily at the same level that we had it before.

SENATOR NICHOL: Well now, Senator Lewis, the county commissioners have a red book and a white book, which I'm sure you're acquainted with, which allows the county assessor to re-evaluate, not reappraise but re-evaluate. As I understand this is okay with Mr. Peters. They don't have to go through this reappraisal. Is that correct? Is that the way you understand it? If that is true, then why do we not just take the word of the county assessor that the re-evaluation has taken place?

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Certainly I don't want to challenge the word of the county official. As you know, Mr. Peters and I have had some disagreements about what the red book and the white book, and the green book and the nonbook, and the under the table book say in terms of this issue. What I'm simply trying to say is that we need to keep that exemption going to those people, but it has to be based on that level, or else we'll double the homestead exemption in some counties and leave it the same in others.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Lewis. I really do feel that you're trying to be fair. But I really don't feel that it is fair between those two type counties to penalize one and allow the other to go free.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to have to oppose Senator Lewis' amendment. Senator Lewis' amendment will amount to additional expense on LB 407. This is just another attempt to stall LB 407. We've had this on the floor now, going on the third day. I am confident the members of this body will realize that the attempt to do this will just hold 407 on General File for reasons that we all know. If the level is unfair because of the re-evaluations in some counties I believe that that can be corrected in the next year. I don't think that I would prefer to have his amendment on this bill. It would cost an additional amount of money. I know there are amendments coming up. This bill will be stalled day after day, because I will stand up and oppose every single amendment that will change the homestead exemption. The bill, as it stands now, is a good bill. Any stalling by any members of the Legislature I will have to oppose. I urge the members of the body to oppose Senator Lewis' amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Koch.