

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I looked at this amendment yesterday. I wish Senator Lewis would come back to his desk. I may have to support this, much to the surprise of an awful lot of people. But if there is one thing that is a mess in the State of Nebraska it's the re-evaluation, the reassessment of the property within the county and within the state. That is the biggest mess you ever saw because we have certain boards that do not perform their functions. Now if we are going to increase 40 percent, and that is what you are going to do, Senator Lewis, is increase 40 percent the valuation of property that is going to be exempt by taxes. This will mean, and Senator Lewis if your two advisors will step aside just a little bit, Senator Lewis, would you see this as saying to those counties, that have not re-evaluated, you are going to get a 40 percent increase in your homestead exemption, based on the mill levy that you have, which would turn into \$30, into \$42 basically.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Absolutely.

SENATOR KEYES: But in Sarpy County, where we have re-evaluated, the \$30 would remain at \$30.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No, it won't quite be that.

SENATOR KEYES: Well it will be pretty close to that. Now what I'm wondering is what this is going to do. If these counties can hold off and not re-evaluate and get a 40 percent increase in the homestead exemption, can come and get equalization money out of state aid to education because they have not increased their valuation, and have not had to lower their mill levy, they are entitled to more funds through the state equalization formula. Somewhere somebody has got to come up and say that all property in this state must be evaluated. We will collect dollars instead of mill levies and so forth.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp. Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in support of Senator Lewis' amendment. As you know, in the first place I don't think this classification of homestead exemption should be in the law anyway. I voted against it, to exclude it, yesterday, one of 23 votes, two votes short. But if it is going to be in the law, which this body decided yesterday that it would be in the law, then why not put a carrot out to those counties, who have not reappraised, to encourage them to reappraise. Why not reward those people living in those counties who have gone through reappraisal as prescribed by law. Rather than treating those counties who have gone through reappraisal the same as those counties who have not. I think Senator Lewis has a good amendment here, a good idea. I think it's a positive pull in getting something accomplished that we need to accomplish. Basically, as I indicated, I would oppose this general concept of homestead exemption as I did yesterday. But if this body is going to have it then I think this is a good, positive approach in encouraging reappraisal, uniform reappraisal across the state.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Newell.