

March 27, 1980

LB 608

increasing this whole area of exemptions and we are going to be doing that on an income basis, and it is going to be extremely costly. You know, I am surprised at one of the more active members in the "conservative coalition" because if there ever was a conservative bill to come before this body, 608 is that bill. It says, yes, we need to provide homestead exemptions, but the way we provide those homestead exemptions ought to be on the basis of need so that we don't give more money than we ought to. So that we don't take from those people who can pay taxes and who, in fact, ought to pay taxes and give to some of those who do not need the tax break in order to help those who do need the tax break, and therein lies the difference between the two bills. Most states in the union that have homestead exemptions have used this approach because it is cheaper, because it is cheaper in the long run and it targets the relief. Now this bill is a very generous bill. It is written to compete with 647. It does not have to be as generous as it is. The one thing nice about a circuit breaker which as opposed to a homestead exemption is you can decide how much you want to pay and then change the figures accordingly. You can't do that as easily with a homestead, and so here we find a very classical competition between a simplistic bill with a lot of loopholes, a little more complex bill that does away with the loopholes. And for those who are supposed to be conservative, as Senator Haberman calls himself, he is certainly not taking the conservative approach....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: And so I would urge this body to look more closely at 608. Study it. Come to realize what is in it, because if we pass 647 we are going to some day soon adopt a bill like 608, and if we don't pass 647, then we better have 608 to deal with the problems of those who really, really and truly are in need as opposed to those who would be benefited because they happen to be in that general category. And so I think that that might even happen this year. It may even happen this year when you find out the cost and the problems associated with 647 that you will, in fact, decide to look more seriously at 608....

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up Senator Newell. Your time is up. Senator Haberman, do you wish to close on your motion?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and fellow colleagues, I am not saying 608 isn't a good bill. There are some