

privacy, confidentiality, unless we build in a lot of safeguards, we make a mistake I believe. So I would suggest you reject the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Sieck. Then the speaking order is Senators Pappas, Eret, DeCamp, Hartnett, and Labeledz.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I supported this amendment in committee, and I still will support it because as Senator Labeledz said earlier here we need to take 10 percent off so that the assessors do a better job. Now the way it is set at the present time it is almost impossible for the assessors to evaluate their income. This is all done down here at the State Revenue Department, and that is the basis for determining how much income that individual has. And once it's determined that that individual is below that certain income the assessor is obligated, or the county is obligated to pay...or to relieve them of the homestead, or the tax on that homestead. I feel we have to have another area that we can check. This is where the county assessor can check in the amount of value that person has, the total value. Much of that will be determined because of the value of that home, the value of the farm property, the value of the business, whatever value he has. And that can be determined right at the local level, a lot of it. And he would also have, the individual that is asking for the homestead exemption would have to sign on, say that it is correct, and he would commit perjury if it isn't. We get a lot of these. I feel we would save a lot of money. But it bothers me with that 10 percent that the county has to pick up, because who is going to pick it up? The taxpayers that are paying their property tax. Those people will have to pick it up and that really bothers me. I feel those individuals that are cheating should be picking up this difference. And I know it is abused. I know the homestead exemption is abused and we need to correct it. Now I know Senator Johnson wants to have a study, but I think we should get this thing on the road. We can be able to tell whether it really will work. So I'm going to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to oppose the amendment for just some basic, simple philosophy and some basic, simple math. If you look at that \$75,000 figure and just kind of run through your heads, I'm quite sure you know a lot of elderly retired people that probably live in homes that are paid