

it on your '79 income. There will no longer be any credit shown on their property tax statement. They will receive that and the balance due is in full. If they use that refund that they receive in January and February on their '78 income they would have to make sure that that money was used or saved to pay their property tax. In a lot of cases the elderly or the low income people would probably spend that money before April 1. If they did not get their refund before April 1 the county assessor will immediately assess them the interest and penalty for not paying on time, at least their first half. Now if I don't understand this bill correctly I'm sure I will be corrected but just keep in mind there will no longer be a homestead exemption shown on the property tax statement. It will all come back in the form of a refund for taxes that they paid. If it was in effect this year. it would be a refund on their '78 taxes they filed on their '79 income, receive it in '80 to pay their '79 taxes in 1980. I think this is very confusing. The system we have now, the county assessor sends out the property tax statement. If you are eligible it is simple as that. The credit is shown on the form. The people pay the balance. If there is no balance at least they got the form showing they were 100% exempt, 80%, 60 or 40 or whatever. Without this they would have to wait until their refund is received. The bill I understand, also knocks out all homestead exemptions. In other words, we have two different types. We have the homestead for the elderly and the general homestead that all of us receive. This knocks it all out. There will no longer be any homestead exemption for anyone including the elderly and the handicapped. Instead we are going to what we call a refund or a rebate system. I urge each and every one of you to really consider what you will be doing. We are going into a system that is almost impossible to administer. I read you about eleven different things. Right now the Department of Revenue punches in the social security number of the applicant for a homestead exemption. In a matter of seconds he can tell whether or not that person is eligible. How are we going to check the social security, the railroad retirement, unemployment offices, interest from federal or state government, workmen's comp? If we are going to administer this and administer it right at least the system we have now they can do it within minutes. I'm sure that the county assessors probably wouldn't be too unhappy because it is completely taken out of their hands. They get the tax paid in full by the elderly, by the handicapped, disabled, regardless. They would have to, as I said before, in turn file for a refund on two years back. In 1980 they would file on 1978. I think this is a very sad situation that we are going to make it