

April 2, 1980

LB 608

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope, then Senator Johnson.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Carsten. Senator Carsten, I need some clarification hearing Senator Labeledz on 647. Do you think that 608, that the elderly, the handicapped, those people will fare as well as under 647?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes, I would say that they will fare about the same, yes, sir.

SENATOR COPE: In other words, we are eliminating primarily the difference of the \$6,000,000 in the two bills is the elimination of the small refund that the average person gets?

SENATOR CARSTEN: However, Senator Cope, we have to bear in mind that the income approach bases the help that they will get. So in some cases yes and in other cases perhaps not but generally speaking I would say it would be true.

SENATOR COPE: But the lower the income probably the more they would be helped or smaller homes, say they really have a home that is valued at \$25,000, that wouldn't make any difference though, I see.

SENATOR CARSTEN: No.

SENATOR COPE: Well that's the reason why I would like to see 608 move on. Then we can make a decision as to the merits. There is \$6,000,000 involved and I think that is a pretty important factor, ladies and gentlemen, and if the elderly, the handicapped, the people that really need it are not going to be hurt, then 608 looks pretty good.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I do want to bring to your attention some of the facts regarding LB 608. I personally think it is an act of considerable valor on our part if we do adopt LB 608. LB 608 represents a new concept in the state. It is a circuit breaker concept that is now in force and in approximately twenty-two states in the country. The initial circuit breaker was developed in Wisconsin in 1964. The circuit breaker approach is the approach recommended by the American Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to use in lieu of, in lieu of the depression based homestead programs. By and large, what you and I are doing with our existing homestead program is we continue to build on our legacy from the depression but the value essentially of the circuit breaker program is