

April 2, 1980

LB 608

home or whether they rent, whether their income comes from taxable or nontaxable sources and with that in mind, the responsible thing for this body to do is to choose 608 which is less expensive, more comprehensive and deals with the problem of our elderly in a responsible, direct and reasonable manner and with that, I urge this body to advance 608.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte, do you wish to speak to the bill?

SENATOR VENDITTE: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Just a couple of questions of Senator Labeledz, I suppose would be the most appropriate person at this point to ask these questions to. I might just simply say too that I oppose LB 608 and would oppose the advancement to E & R initial for a number of reasons and I suspect that the first and foremost reason is that in LB 608 we are taking away and, Senator Labeledz, I guess I am asking you this question. Is it not true that we are going to be taking away the general homestead provision that all people in the state have currently?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Yes, I think it runs around \$20 average. LB 608 would eliminate that portion or the general exemption that everyone receives in order to...and like Senator Newell said, his bill is cheaper than 647 in that respect. He is taking away the general homestead that you and I and everybody receives and giving it to the renters.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Senator Labeledz, don't you think if this Legislature would do anything it would be maybe to raise that homestead exemption that currently exists on the books to everyone rather than take it away? Don't you think people are looking today, maybe at providing in getting some kind of relief and this Legislature has not done that at all, Senator Fowler, this year and it doesn't appear that it is ever going to happen in the very near future and I guess a second question I have, Senator Labeledz, will the elderly in your opinion now, I've heard from Senator Carsten, but in your opinion, Senator Labeledz, will the elderly fare as well in 608?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Well I would say offhand it would not. In committee at the hearing it was even stated there will be some elderly and I would say a good deal amount of elderly would be put back on the tax rolls. Say for instance, you have got someone that is earning, an elderly man that is working part time earning \$3,000 or \$2,000. He and his wife are both on social security. You add that social