

ratified on the floor of this Legislature, the deal, Senator Cullan, the "deal" that is being changed at this time. Now you and maybe others offered amendments to add some additional monies but you knew and everyone on this floor knew that that bill would be vetoed if it wouldn't have the \$70,000,000 ceiling in there and consequently that is why those amendments were defeated. That \$70,000,000 ceiling was the deal and you would never have had the votes to pass 518 if that deal weren't accepted and so that is what we are doing here. We are saying, you know, it is a bad bill. It is a bad thing. It is a bad exemption and it is a bad pay back formula and we ought not make it any worse. We ought not make the urban areas hemorrhage more and more and more. We ought not have the urban areas paying for property tax relief to a greater and greater extent for our rural cousins. Now that is the issue here and that is the importance of this amendment. If this amendment is adopted I will vote against 882 but I will offer no other amendments. If this amendment is not adopted we are going to have a problem. Now let's talk about this amendment. It is some people's contention that this is critical to the constitutional issue. It is not. The Attorney General addressed the classes as a closed class. One thing that 882 does is open up those classes. It says that new SIDs and new political subdivisions can get those dollars. That is the constitutional problem that is most glaring. Now the other question of a frozen class is whether you can keep paying back on 1976 dollars and in some cases 1972 dollars because that is when you undid the Freeport Act. That is the issue that the Attorney General still says there is a problem with and this section does not in any way deal with that. If you take this out it is going to be just as constitutional as it will be with this in and so that argument is baloney. The argument probably and the issue probably is who is got the power? Who is going to push these things down whose throat and I think that is the real issue. The fellows in the rotunda have decided that they are going to pass 882.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: And therein lies the difficulties that we have here. If there is a desire to straighten out the most clear and blatant constitutional question, 882 does, in fact, address that but the growth factor in no way adds to the constitutionality of the rest of the bill, 518, and consequently with this growth factor out we will have a bad bill but it won't be getting worse and worse and worse each and every year and that is why this amendment is so critical. That is why this amendment should be adopted by this body.