

April 14, 1980

LB 647

homeowners and putting it into another program called state aid. I am going to have to oppose that amendment only because many, many of the people under 65 low income, now this isn't like the General Homestead where it goes across the board. This is for the very low income according to the federal government gross...federal adjusted gross income. Many, many times there are people under 65 that are under Social Security and because of some disability are unable to work and are possibly, as I said when it was on General File, in worse shape than the elderly because of the fact that they have maybe children at home or still paying off their home. Whereby the elderly in most cases, their homes have been paid for. So here we are going under 65 to the people that need direct property tax relief and saying, that even though they are under Social Security in very, very low income, that they are going to have to find the money to pay their property tax. I especially am a little bit upset because we are doing this to fund another program. As I said before on the other amendment, I am not totally against state aid as long as we are going to have some type of ceiling on the property tax and believe me the petition drive that will be very soon going into effect, and I am sure that they will be going from county to county asking you to sign petitions, or asking the taxpayers to sign it, and keep the property tax at one and a half or two percent of actual value. Even at that the low income and those under Social Security for any type of disability and those housewives that are left alone with small children living on Social Security possibly in their early thirties or forties are going to have to come up with the money to pay their property tax. We talked so much about giving property tax relief to those that need it most, and this amendment that was recommended by Governor Thone to me was an ideal way to do it. Of course, I don't want anything...anything at all to hurt the Homestead Exemption for the elderly and the disabled and the veterans. This does cost eight million dollars for the 65 low income homeowners, but as far as I am concerned it is an amount of money that is well worth it, because this eight million I know will go into state aid. Are we really going to go back our districts and tell the people under 65 low income that we took away the Homestead Exemption that they could have possibly have gotten and given it to another program? I really believe that we should keep the amendment. We did sustain and keep the General Homestead Exemption that everyone is receiving which was a 4.1 million. All total with the amendment as recommended by Governor Thone, the total amount of Homestead or LB 647, would be \$43,000,000. Without it, raising it to forty thousand

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