

very much time to consider and then we should, I think, vote rather rapidly on this amendment. All it does is change the increase that we are presently providing in the actual value limit from twenty-five to forty thousand to going from twenty-five to thirty-five thousand dollars. So we are still allowing for a ten thousand dollar increase in actual value. We just don't increase it another five thousand to forty thousand dollars. Now it is estimated that this change, this amendment would save around two million dollars or so in the Homestead Exemption program, and that is a lot of money and that is one thing that we should be watching where we spend that amount, and so that is a lot of savings that we can bring about by this amendment, and again it is increasing still another ten thousand dollars in actual value limit that I think we absolutely have to have, but it just isn't going that extra five thousand to forty thousand dollars. In talking with the legal counsel for the Revenue Committee he said that the main increase from twenty-five to thirty-five thousand catches the most individuals in this state and that is really where the need exists. But you get a diminishing return when you go from thirty-five to forty thousand or above that amount, and so there is less people benefiting and people that are less in need of those sort of benefits when you go above thirty-five thousand dollars evidently. And so this is an attempt to save some more money and to still allow for an increase in the actual value limit to a reasonable level. That level is thirty-five thousand dollars. Again, it is co-sponsored by Senators DeCamp, Dworak, Lamb, George and Hefner and we urge your support. We should not take too much time and so I ask your support for the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson, do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, just a couple of quick remarks about the Wesely amendment, and that is this. The Revenue Committee itself when it examined the several Homestead bills before it though it ultimately sent the bills out with a forty thousand dollar ceiling, gave serious consideration to a thirty-two thousand dollar ceiling and rejected it in the end only...only so the full forty thousand dollars would have a full and adequate debate on the floor of the Legislature. But I know as a member of the Revenue Committee that I certainly thought and I believe that a majority of the members of that committee really thought that a forty thousand dollar ceiling was higher than the state truly could afford, at least in relationship to the