

couple paragraphs. If we do not do anything for the homestead exemption this year, I'm afraid that this group will go with a petition drive. Many of you may not have read this, so I'll just read a couple paragraphs. "In a visit to the Capitol Rotunda recently, I talked to several senators, and there are few, about the chances of property tax relief. While we were listening to the floor debate about property tax relief, they shook their heads and said the chances for real relief are slim to none. They agree that the first thing that must happen is to control spending, the second thing is that people will have to take the steps to limit spending." Then there are three or four paragraphs of spending by local governments. But here is the proposal that Mr. Jaksha is giving to the people that he mailed this letter to, and I seem to be on the mailing list, a constitutional amendment...he wants a constitutional amendment to control local spending, allow them an annual 2 percent increase, approved at regular public hearing. If the local school or county board or NRD crosses the threshold of 2 percent, the proposed increase automatically goes to a public election for approval. If the voters approve, they get what they ask for. If the voters reject, they get no increase, not even the 2 percent. They have to wait until the next year for another shot. Believe me, if they start the petition drive now, they will get their signatures by the year, November, 1990, and it will be on the ballot. But, if we come across this year with a half way decent proposal for property tax relief, we may not have the so-called petition drive to change the Constitution and put a 2 percent lid. He ends the letter by saying, you have a choice, wait for the Legislature to act, or to be involved, or be a petition carrying citizen to do nothing about property tax relief. So I urge the adoption of Senator Lamb's amendment, and let's give the property tax at least for one year. I, myself, would prefer the two years. But, if we have to go with the one year and the sunset, then so be it, but I really believe that we have to do it this year. We've done a little, not enough, but we've done...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LABEDZ: ...something on the income tax, let's now go with the property tax relief. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR HEFNER: Call the question.