

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If they are entitled to something, they are entitled to something better than what this bill offers. This is an exercise in sleight of hand. I started to say dishonesty, but since the bill is out there and people can read it, it is not concealed from the public in the sense of it not saying what it means. But since people are not going to read the bill, they are going to read the things that are said about it, and that is where the duplicity comes in, the misguiding of the public. This is not substantial property tax relief, and if the people on this floor were out there as nonmembers of the Legislature and this were given to them, they would not see it as something that they would praise the Legislature for, but that is the way it is being presented in here. Jonathan Swift once said that a group of people were sitting in a coffeehouse making a lot of noise and they reached the opinion that the noise they were making around their ears was what everybody in the world was saying, and they went away thinking that their opinion was the opinion shared by the world.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is what is happening with the Legislature but I won't be a part of it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: On the motion to advance to E & R, Senator Abboud, do you care to speak? Senator McFarland, do you care to speak?

SENATOR McFARLAND: Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to comment on the whole process that has bothered me about this whole property tax relief package. There has not been one public hearing on this package. There has been no opportunity for the public to have input into how this package was thrown together. Granted, there were separate bills out there introduced into the Revenue Committee. There were separate hearings on the homestead exemption, separate hearings on the rebate idea, separate hearings on other proposals. But to throw this thing together in a package and make it a bill and not have public input, and not have one-third of the taxpayers in our state even getting any relief under this bill, I think, is totally unfair and inappropriate. Supposedly the original compromise that was worked out by this group of senators was going to be the final, complete and agreeable solution to the