

CLERK: Senator Rod Johnson voting yes. Senator Chizek voting yes.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 17 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate and I will recognize Senator Chambers for closing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, it's clear that a substantial number of the senators did want to continue the discussion because it's a very serious issue. And for the Douglas County senators who said so much even before this special session about trying to protect the homeowners, we have a set of circumstances where a large special interest group in Douglas County is to be exempted from paying taxes which is going to increase the amount that's going to have to be gotten from homeowners so how do those two positions square? I think what you ought to do is look at the vote of the Douglas County senators, it did sound good to say we filed a lawsuit to protect the homeowners, we think the homeowners are being unfairly treated. But now we have a situation where into the tax pots of Douglas County would go the taxes from...that ConAgra doesn't have to pay and the taxes that the homeowners are going to have to pay. We put it all in the pot and everybody grumbles because nobody wants to pay taxes. But here is what is being done here. The Douglas County senators who said they want to help the homeowners are saying, well, we do have the tax pot and there are some who may have to pay some property on intangible personal property, but not ConAgra, we're going to take them out of the pot, and by taking them out, the Douglas County homeowners are going to have to pay more. But we care more for ConAgra, because they make such nice tasty, choice dinners, than we do for the homeowners who we have said are scraping and struggling trying to hold their homes. That's what I have heard that it's such a burden on the homeowners in the cities that something has got to be done to rectify that set of circumstances. And the conscious, deliberate vote that is taken with the assistance of some of the city senators is to exempt and protect and shield, and that is the proper word and it was used on the floor, ConAgra. If it were not for ConAgra, that vote would not have been successful. I had said that it has boiled down to a question of how powerful politically Mike Harper is. He has one vote when he goes into