

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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March 16, 1999 LB 179

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...and they're not able to stay in their homes.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on the first part of the divided question. I'm sorry. Senator Wickersham, it's a committee amendment, you're recognized to close on part one of the divided question.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I think that I have, in fact, said most of what I needed to about this particular issue. In fairness to Senator Beutler, I do want to indicate that your vote on this particular issue is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3 million as it advances to Select File. That's what this component of the committee amendment costs, approximately, separate from everything else. I suppose the Fiscal Office later will produce a fiscal note that proves me wrong, but that's...that's my estimate. So this is about a \$3 million vote and, to the extent that Senator Beutler wanted you to focus on that, that's entirely appropriate. You can think about that \$3 million, but behind the expenditure of \$3 million I hope that you think about what you view the purposes of the homestead exemption plan to be. If you think it's property tax relief, then it's \$3 million worth of property tax relief. If you think it's a social program that allows people to remain in their homes and to have a more satisfactory lifestyle while they're in their homes at the same time reducing the burden on other public services, then you've expended \$3 million to assist that objective. I think you can legitimately choose either objective and decide that it is a worthwhile expenditure of state dollars.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The question before us is part one of the divided committee amendments to LB 179. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed nay. Please record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the first component of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: That section of the committee amendment is