

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 9, 1999

LB 179

thank you for your time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I'm ambivalent about Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I understand the predicament the Appropriations Committee may feel itself in, having a bill with a price tag in the amount of LB 179 as it's now sitting on Select File with the committee amendments. We've only seen preliminary numbers from the Appropriations Committee. I understand that they are rapidly approaching the end of their work, and I'm sure that they understand, and we will all understand, once we begin developing the budget on the floor, what the parameters and the choices that we have to make are. This morning I don't know if this is a choice that we need to make. And maybe Senator Beutler and other members of the Appropriations Committee will be able to advise me more fully about that so I can really make a decision this morning as to whether or not we do need to make a choice to reduce the price of LB 179. If we do make a decision to reduce the cost or the price of LB 179 this morning, I'm going to wonder whether or not we're going to be able to consider any other kind of property tax relief measures this year, this to the extent that LB 179 represents property tax relief. And remember, we had a brief discussion on General File about whether people think a homestead program is a property tax relief program, or whether they think it's a social program directed at being...directed at providing a means for people to remain in their home. Well, if you think it's a property tax relief program and you vote for Senator Wehrbein's amendment, you're going to vote for less property tax relief, and you're going to be in effect telling, I think, me, and I think other members of the Appropriations Committee, or Revenue Committee, I'm sorry, that we don't have the money for property tax relief. The alternate message you might be sending me and other members of Revenue Committee is we have money, but not for this form of property tax relief. And if that's the message you want to send the Revenue Committee, then I think we need to know that as well. So maybe we'll have some discussion this morning so that we know which one you're thinking about. Are you thinking that we have no monies for