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LB 1279

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, I obviously oppose Senator Bourne's bracket motion. I don't know that I can say anything further about the issue. We've had a considerable discussion about it. In some parts, I've always thought that the kinds of discussions we have on these issues are healthy and instructive to the members of the body. But, quite frankly, Senator Bourne, I would suggest to you at the moment that the majority of your colleagues have expressed a view on the bill and I hope that they will continue to hold to the views that they have expressed and will vote with me to oppose your bracket motion. The bill, as we're advancing it, does clarify the law so that persons could read the law and without any doubt, I think, know what it said. Leaving the law in an ambiguous state is not something that I think that we should do. Senator Bourne has suggested several times that he believes that if we advance the bill as it now stands, that we will put someone out of their home. Well, I disagree with Senator Bourne because the law is being utilized in the fashion that the bill would now clearly express and I can't see that it's going to work any change in their circumstances. It was interesting that we had persons come to the Revenue Committee and testify in support of a bill that Senator Bohlke brought to us. In fact, I remember a couple, both of whom had severe disabilities or substantial disabilities, one of them because of a mental issue, the other because of other issues. They had quite a remarkable success story, quite frankly, in that they had been able to acquire a home, not that they were kicked out of a home, but they had actually been able to acquire a home through a variety of programs that were available. And they were suggesting to us, not that it was critical that we do Senator Bohlke's bill, but they supported Senator Bohlke's bill because it was...it would have enabled them to have a better home and to improve further the home that they had bought because they had been able to make improvements in the home during the time that they owned it. So I think, Senator Bourne, while I hope you understand that I do have sympathy for what you're saying, I don't think that we're doing quite the harm that you are attempting to suggest to the body; that there is probably some sort of a middle ground; that, yes, there are persons that are affected, but I cannot honestly say that I think that there are a large number of persons affected in the way that you are suggesting to the body that they will be. You