

do, it will fund the homestead exemption, it would increase the appropriation bill \$18.3 million.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Speaker Nichol, the Speaker, has asked me to announce that a treat is being served for you and available under the north balcony from the clerk's section of the Nebraska League of Municipalities. The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb, and then Senator DeCamp. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members, there is no doubt in my mind that if homestead exemption is going to stay on the statutes it's got to be funded. You know anything else takes it out of the hide of the other people in the counties. Now my preference is to repeal the homestead exemption. I voted against it last year. I voted to uphold the Governor's veto of that bill. But now we are down to funding it. So I guess I would rather work at this the other direction from what Senator Vard Johnson is suggesting. I would say let's first vote to repeal the homestead or delay it, one or the other, repeal or delay and then see how that goes because that if my first choice. Then come back here and say, okay, if we're not going to repeal it then we are going to fund it. Now this is going backwards from what I would prefer. I would rather go the other way. However, I just want to stress the point that if we are not going to repeal it or delay it we'd better fund it because you are going to have agriculture and business picking up that property tax increase in those counties. That certainly is property tax relief in reverse.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) There is quite a bit of distracting noise going around the Chamber, members. The Chair would recognize Senator DeCamp, and then Senator Warner.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I just kind of have the feeling that probably about the only thing that can get done is delaying it a year. I realize that may not be what anybody wants, but I don't think the funding is there and I don't think the votes are probably there to repeal it. I realize Senator Johnson...or I mean Senator Lamb is quite right. It is a form of shifting to other taxpayers, somewhat similar to what maybe occurred a little bit with personal property tax when exemptions were granted there and not enough money was made available from the state to cover all of those. Ultimately that shifted to the homeowner. So