

that county government, we are going to provide for property tax reduction. I think it is a very simple amendment as far as the concept. I think it is one that we should support and I want to commend Senator Lewis for bringing it to us.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to be recognized? Then Senator DeCamp and then Senator Goodrich and then Senator Lamb. While Senator Newell is going to the mike, in the North balcony from Senator Simon's district forty-three fourth grade students from Willa Cather Millard School District, Omaha, Nebraska, two teachers and four parents, fourth grade teacher is Kathy Hasselbalch, North balcony. Raise your hands so we can see you. Say hello. Where are you? Okay. Okay, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, the Lewis amendment is, in fact, one of those amendments that one can have a very difficult time arguing with because, in fact, this proposal has been sold as a property tax relief proposal. Now I, like Senator Johnson, agree that we have other mechanisms in this state to provide for property tax relief. We have a lid bill which, in fact, will deal with this issue by adding state monies into the 7% limitation and for that reason we do have a mechanism already, on the... already being planned, already being planned, already moving its way through the Legislature which will provide this lid mechanism and guarantee that property tax relief will be granted. Now this whole issue today is an issue very simply of one in which we discuss where we want to spend "7%" increased tax dollars from last year, where do we want to spend those dollars and the issue has been discussed and so forth and we ought to spend those dollars on the state level and I say that this proposal ought to be to send those 7%, spend those dollars, some of those dollars for property tax relief on a local level because you can not continue to rob Peter to pay Paul and that is exactly what this proposal and other proposals are intended to do. The issue here is very simple. It is one of whether you want to spend the monies here at our discretion or whether, in fact, you want to provide property tax relief. There has been proposals and Senator Fowler discussed it before that the situation is simply this bill or the supplemental appropriations bill and the issue is simply that, I think. If you want the supplemental appropriation bill you are adding additional monies to the 7% we have already granted to agencies but that is as it should be because we do not have to provide property tax relief to local