

we can continue to perpetuate the kind of shams we have in that existing homestead law. 608 addresses those problems. 608 looks at them, puts it on a basis of need. People are crying to their government, for gosh sakes, get the morass and the maze straightened out and let's do exactly what we intend to do and 608 is that type of bill. I support the Revenue Committee's efforts in 608, and I just think it really may be a mistake of this body at this time because of fatigue, because of a long two days to act irrationally, and taking away an option away from us that we may well want to look at very seriously when we come back refreshed next week.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I would urge the body to defeat the kill motion. Senator Dworak covered it very well. I think the general public is not going to tolerate some of the fallacies of the present homestead exemption. We have people that have tremendous incomes. When we go to adjusted gross only, we can so easily strip out the tax exempt municipals...the total income base, increase that income so it is equitable to everyone. And we have addressed this in 608. It is a bill that will get the public acceptance, especially those that are taxpayers that are not receiving from it. Sure, a move like this will probably deprive a few people of drawing that homestead exemption that have high enough incomes they don't need it. That is what the issue is between the two bills. We are going to take some money away in 608 from people that are elderly that have higher incomes that don't need the exemption, and give it to those that need it on the basis of their total income. It is fair, it is equitable and I urge the body to save the money, pass 608 and do the right thing, the thing that is fair to the taxpayers of the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as Senator Johnson said, this was one of two bills that was in the Revenue Committee. It was a Revenue Committee bill. We seriously believe that it is the right approach. We have spent a considerable amount of time putting the bill together, and as Senator Dworak has said, it addresses those people that are in need, and it certainly does not address those that don't need it. It is a fair bill. It does address the problem, and it is a big help. I think to kill this bill now without an opportunity for