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LB 647

that should be increased if we are going to give direct property tax relief to those homeowners that are finding it very difficult to stay in their own homes. I would like to read you some figures here just for Douglas County. The re-evaluation for residential homes raised on an average of 65.7 percent, yet the mill levy in Douglas County only went down 27.6 percent. If the average valuation increase is 65.7 while the mill levy declined is 27.6, then the homeowner whose valuations have increased at the average can expect his residential property tax to raise 20 percent. The average homeowner in the Omaha school district faces this increase even though the county board reduced its overall property tax budget by 1.6 million and the Omaha school system held its property tax budget at a constant level. I urge you to think twice before you take away the General Homestead Exemption from everyone at this time especially. If Senator Warner's amendment goes through, and I certainly will oppose that also, because it goes to the under 65 low income homeowners and especially those that are under Social Security for some sort of disability. I urge you to vote against this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Mr. Speaker and fellow senators, my good friend, Senator Wesely, when he talks about it's only \$17.00, it happens to be in Springfield about \$28.00 and \$28.00 to the three families of mine buying a home is quite a chunk of money. It becomes over a day's work...a day's work, and Senator Wesely, when you say it doesn't mean anything, Senator Wesely, you are mistaken. It's probably twenty-five to thirty loaves of bread, ten pounds of hamburger, and it means the difference in being able to eat fully for one day and not, so when you come along and say the Homestead Exemption...you forget that the people of this state voted for a Homestead Exemption, you had better let us have what we want. I would hate to say that we would take away this year the Homestead Exemption and start financing some other program that I call a boondoggle across this state.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Question of Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, will you respond?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, I will.