

April 14, 1980

LB 647

SENATOR LAMB: In checking the Journal...I believe your amendment is on page 1678...79....

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR LAMB: Could you explain the reference there to veterans in regard to your amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, essentially as I understand it, the section of law we are dealing with that we want to repeal includes a provision to provide a Homestead Exemption for disabled veterans, and it was Senator Marsh and my feeling that we didn't want to eliminate that exemption for the disabled veteran, but only wanted to deal with the regular General Homestead Exemption and so we leave in the disabled veteran exemption but repeal the General Homestead Exemption.

SENATOR LAMB: Then you are sure that is what your amendment does? It takes away the 17 or 20 dollars from everybody but it leaves that amount in for veterans. Is that correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Or the exemption that they now have, yes.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, let me emphasize once again. I can understand Senator Labeledz and Senator Keyes' concern and this is an issue where it is very easy to get up and talk about providing tax relief to individuals, but really when we talk about the practical side of it, does this provision that we now have in the law really provide tax relief? I don't think it does, and I think it started off in 1969 when this Homestead Exemption provision was first enacted as being about the only General Homestead property tax relief that we had. It was the first of our Homestead exemptions and since then we have built up a number of other exemptions and tax relief proposals. We have increased state aid to education. We have done a number of things that have helped, I think, to some degree, but we have much more we can do. I am not saying that we have done everything we can. We have got a number of proposals we are considering this year and a number that will be developed in the future, and we have got to do something about property tax relief. But I