

let's do so and keep at least this one promise of property tax relief that we made a year ago to our constituents. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I was one of the members that did not vote to advance this bill or to kill the bill, in other words. I wanted to keep the bill alive and I still feel that is what we should do. We all must remember that when we give back money to some property tax people, we are taking money from them also to finance it. We must also remember that there are a lot of renters out there that are going to pay this bill. Are they going to reduce their renters because they receive homestead exemption? I doubt it. And it is just a pittance as far as I am concerned. It isn't very much and I just feel it is the wrong direction to go. We have...and I supported that issue on the floor last year. I was opposed to it all along even though it did advance and I had a lot of pressure and I am still getting a lot of pressure but I want you also to know that the assessors sent every homeowner a little note saying if you want homestead exemption you had better apply for it. That stands to reason that there is a lot of people coming to the assessor's office. That is the reason. If they wouldn't have sent that note, there wouldn't have been many there. And I also want to tell you that the pressure is in Omaha but didn't we give them a lot of property tax relief by allowing them to increase their sales tax to one and a half percent? To me that was property tax relief for that city and I really feel that is true. And by the way, we have got another bill coming up, 556, if you want true property tax relief to the people that need it, that is the bill to vote for. It is actually raising the valuation to those people or the valuation where they can get tax exempt to those people that really need it and I will support that. When somebody really needs it, yes, but there is a lot of people out there that do not need it and I have an awful time supporting this so I will support the advancement of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Mr. President, members, I rise to support Senator Pappas in his attempt to bring this bill to the floor much for the same reasons only with different