

order, please. (Gavel.) Senator Pappas.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Mr. President and colleagues, those who are listening I will probably ask for a call of the house very briefly or in a moment or two, but before I do that I would like to make a few comments about this. One thing I think everybody better ask themselves, the ones that don't want 210 out, they want it to remain dead in committee, is when it comes down to the waning moments of the legislative session, what are we going to cut? Are we going to start cutting some of our favorite pet projects out so this goes through? That is one thing you had better take into consideration. Are we going to cut some of the recreational things that we put in your district a couple of years ago, Senator Hefner? Are we going to cut some of these other little pet projects that we have? We may have to make some cuts. We may not. When 712 comes up, which is the opposite of this, which raises the exemption from 3,000 to 15,000, I will be the strongest supporter of that. I will work very hard and diligently to try to get that passed. But I think we need this option, we need this option. This is not a message to the people that says we double-talked or we promised one thing and didn't do anything. If the people would like to recall, it was brought out by Senator Beutler, three years ago there was a bill that said the counties...the state would take over the counties' portion of Medicaid. That bill was in the Revenue Committee three years ago. I led the charge to kill that bill in the Revenue Committee, which we did. Guess who was the person on the other side that led the charge to bring the bill out of Revenue Committee? It was Senator Johnson, Senator Johnson for the Governor. Senator Johnson said, hey, we cannot afford this. Although we promised them property tax relief, although we promised them the year before that we were going to do this, Senator Johnson stood up here on this floor and says, we cannot afford it. So now the roles are reversed. I have learned since I have been down here, I have learned from Senator Johnson. If it is okay for Senator Johnson, I figure it is okay for Senator Pappas. So what I am asking you here today is we are not turning our backs. Let's leave this option alive in case we need it. If we don't need it, fine. If we get it out on the floor, I will ask the Speaker not to schedule it, to let it remain there until the option is clear which way we are going to go, one way or the other. But before that, I hope you vote to bring this bill out of committee and I would ask for a