

certain school districts that is another bill that is going through, they are paying a little more as well for the privilege of supporting a K-12 educational system, for the privilege of being in that particular area that their real estate may be located in. But we are saying, well, we don't think that they've got any bigger problem than anybody else, so therefore we're going to treat them all the same. Senator Johnson tells me the tie is already broken. That is fine. Good. Then I guess maybe this... I don't know whether this is technical or not. Maybe that is where it becomes technical then because we've already passed it with another bill. I apologize, Senator Johnson, I had forgotten that. But that is a good part of this amendment. I think it is time that this body recognize that we have a responsibility to the property taxpayers of this state, but that we also need to recognize that those problems that those property taxpayers have are not all uniform. We've done that. We're talking about that in a number of other issues. I fail to understand why, when it comes time to provide the funds, then we say, well, yes, but we're going to treat you all the same. I don't have any problem with the particular part of the amendment except that I don't like the bill, so therefore obviously I don't like the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: If you vote for this amendment, if you vote for this amendment from the Revenue Committee, you are creating a fund for a general homestead exemption, period. Then we're going to talk a little later on the second amendment as to whether we're going to raise the sales tax to provide the dollars to that fund. So if you really believe that the way to provide property tax relief across this state is to not recognize where the problem is, and the problem is the support of education from the property taxes. That is where the problem is and we all know it. But instead of dealing with that problem you are willing to throw some dollars out there saying we're going to exempt some of the value of your home, if you happen to live in it, and therefore that is property tax relief. That is ridiculous. I oppose the committee amendment. I'm going to oppose the bill if it is adopted. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers is next, but may I please introduce some guests in the north balcony of Senator Pirsch. They are 20 River City Republican Women's Club