

members, accompanied by their President. Would you please rise and be welcome by your Legislature. Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I feel like Senator Vickers. I'm opposed to the bill. I wasn't going to speak until we got on the bill, but I'm also opposed to the amendment. I guess I could also say that I'm going to oppose my good friend Howard Lamb, Senator Lamb's bill which comes up next for much the same reason. I think maybe that we have a right to be a little surprised at Senator Johnson pushing so hard for homestead exemptions. I always thought that Senator Johnson was concerned about the less privileged rather than the privileged. It seems to me when you are talking about homestead exemptions you are talking about the privileged. There are a lot of substandard homes, where people live, that are valued at less than \$15,000 on the tax rolls and would not get the full credit for the homestead exemption. We have a lot of people who do not own their homes, but live as tenants and don't get the benefit of the homestead exemption. Besides the substandard homes, we have people living in mobile homes. I'm sure that they would not qualify for the full amount. I guess why homestead exemptions are so popular is because homeowners are more inclined to vote than nonhomeowners. I believe the record will definitely show that homeowners are more inclined to vote than nonhomeowners. So maybe that is why homestead exemption bills are so popular. I just feel very strongly that this is the wrong direction to go. I have supported an increase in sales tax. I have no problem increasing the state sales tax, but not for this particular use. I'm constantly told, when I am speaking in favor of state aid to schools where I think the sales tax should go, that, well, school districts are just simply going to spend the money. To me that is saying that you don't have much confidence in your school boards. Are those of you who make that statement willing to go home and tell your school board members I don't trust you to cut taxes, I don't trust you to do what your people want you to do? No, you wouldn't do that. We talk a lot about local control. If you are talking about local control you would give them the privilege to spend their money the way they feel it should be spent, they are local elected officials. I'll tell you the pressures are pretty strong on those local school boards to spend money for their schools. I don't think the record will show that we have been overly generous to our schools in this state. I don't believe