

have children in school but aren't paying the property tax. Now the argument has been made that if a landlord would get this relief would he lower the rent. I can't speak for everybody. I will not benefit at all from this. My husband and I own a six-plex and we live in it. I don't think Senator Johnson's bill would cover the six-plex since it would be considered commercial property. Since we only live in a small portion of it, one apartment, I don't know if I would be getting any property tax relief. But I do know this, if every homeowner gets property tax relief that money is going to come back to the state, probably a good portion of it, well, at least 4.5 percent of it, in sales tax because what is somebody going to do when they get a check from the state for \$300? They're probably going to spend it. So there is \$300 that the state would get sales tax on. Now you multiply that by how much we are giving and there is going to be an increase there to the state coffers (sic)...coffers. Almost got my hairdo mixed up there. We go to Iowa and we pay a sales tax. We travel and we pay sales tax. We help other states increase their revenue. This bill is designed to do what this Legislature has been promising for year, after year, something about property tax relief. I say it is a real attempt to give real property tax relief to the homeowners. If you had walked door-to-door in my district, as I did, and you met some the elderly people on fixed incomes like one woman who was raking the leaves and I saw a for sale sign in front of her house. I said, gee, I see you are moving. She started to cry. She said, you know my husband and I are living on social security and his small pension, and the taxes on the house have gotten to a point, and the utilities, that we can't make the payment on the utilities and the taxes and still live on social security and his small pension. Now that hurts when you see someone crying that they've worked all their life to own their own home and they have to sell it. Remember, mine is not a wealthy district. It is the second lowest in income per capita of the 49 legislative districts. So if you think the people don't really need property tax help, that is a falsehood. Since the biggest percentage, at least in my county, goes to the schools...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...I feel that everybody should pay the sales tax. How do you think I feel. I have no children whatsoever and yet I have been supporting everybody else's