

to the floor of the Legislature and let the people of Nebraska see that we are really serious about giving them property tax relief. I got a bill in hearing today for the homestead exemption for the elderly. I think it is vitally important that we prove to the people of this state that we are serious about giving them property tax relief, as we did when we went out and voted for Amendment 4. I urge you to reject this amendment and go with Senator Johnson's amendment...sorry that one didn't pass, but go with raising the sales tax one percent, or else if we have to go with the income tax, which I would much prefer. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, oppose this amendment very violently. Senator Vickers talks a lot about having the guts to raise taxes, but if I am going to vote to raise the sales tax one cent I want to know what I'm going to vote for and what that one cent sales tax is going to go for. I supported the rest of the committee amendment. I supported this provision 5 as a part of that amendment because that was for a specific purpose and one which has been talked about this morning that is very definitely a proposal that we should look at in its entirety. But to separate out just to raise the sales tax, to have no direction for that, I cannot go for. I hope you reject that amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, just so I can understand as well, I hesitate to stand up and say anything that might seem uninformed. But it seems like we are discussing a homestead exemption type bill. A rose, is a rose, is a rose so to speak. We are talking simply about homestead relief as it applies to the home you own on the farm, or the home you own in the city. If I think we all can remember how exemptions exist, if you are in business you have an exemption on the utilities you pay, if you live in the country you have a 60 percent value, about that, attached to the valuation on your farm for tax purposes as well. I think it is important that we dwell on...and remember that this only applies to homesteaders, people who own their own homes, who have to date received no or very little help, unless in certain exception such as disabled or old. I think they deserve the consideration