

SPEAKER NICHOL: There are no other lights. Senator Vard, did you wish to close?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I do. Senator Morehead, the water is muddy, but down in the Legislature you've got to learn to swim real fast and get that head above the water and look around and see what is going on. I know that for all of us here this is the first time this year we started the conversation on property tax relief. I'll make no bones about it, colleagues. I intend to keep that level of conversation up on property tax relief throughout this entire legislative session, through this bill, through LB 38, through a state aid bill, and any other device that I can do because it is my intention to make certain that our level of awareness in this issue, and what we can do or cannot do, is highlighted so that we can make appropriate choices. I will tell you that I do not believe, to the bottom of my heart, that you make a bad choice in dedicating a one cent sales tax to property tax relief, and in particular the homestead exemption. What you will do with this vote is you will start that process of dedicating one cent of the sales tax to homestead exemption. I'm going to ask you to make that same choice on other bills. I am of the opinion that that is probably a better choice than the last Beutler scenario which is to simply provide the property tax relief and let it be funded out of the overall general funds. In fact I know that the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Warner, has, over a long period of time, come to the point of view that a dedicated tax to property tax relief is probably the way we should go. In fact we have again before the Revenue Committee his bill, LB 34, which would dedicate the entire sales tax, the entire sales tax to the state aid bill, to the property tax relief bills. My guess would be that in the end, as we begin to look at the sales tax as a property tax relief tax, that we may well ultimately put together LB 34 with this measure and another measure maybe and have a dedicated sales tax to property tax relief. In any event, the source of funds for the homestead exemption bill will be known if you vote favorably to increase the sales tax one cent, to put \$100 million into this significant homestead exemption. That is what this vote now asks you to do.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the amendment which is Section 5. All those in favor vote aye,