

CLERK: Mr. President, the amendment that Senator DeCamp wishes to consider is labeled, I believe, number three in the Journal, of his amendments. It is on page 883.

PRESIDENT: Page 883? The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I really wish you would listen because this is our second big property tax bill. It is my impression from talking to senators that they are inclined to go with some kind of a direct rebate program in terms of property tax relief. And property tax, as everyone knows, is one of the things I have worked to try to get some real relief on over the years. I will say here that unless we do it in a proper way, I, personally, will not support 38 on the Final unless we do something reasonable. What am I talking about? I am talking about putting a tap on the maximum amount you are going to reimburse. Otherwise, you will spend a fortune and obtain very little true property tax relief and you will get trapped in the same thing that happened on the personal property tax which is an ever increasing cost to the state, unless you get a handle early. Let me give you a specific actual example of what I am talking about, and please listen. If you give ten percent reimbursement, I repeat, if you give ten percent reimbursement across the board as the bill now is, the average homeowner...and the average tax is about a thousand dollars, the average homeowner is going to get \$100 rebate. However, the bulk of your money, a vast amount of it is going to go to a limited number of individuals or corporations who already have received every kind of tax relief you can imagine. I have not been able to get all the figures but I will recite some of them so you will understand what I am talking about. I will use two examples. One is Lincoln County, James Pappas's District; one is Lancaster County, everybody's district. Let us take Lincoln County, James Pappas's District. These are not necessarily the ten largest property taxpayers. They are names we grabbed at random who we knew were big property taxpayers. If you go the ten percent with the bill the way it is, you will do as follows. To Union Pacific who now pays \$693,000 in property taxes in Lincoln County, you will give them \$70,000, \$69,000. They already have the various exemptions, the various benefits. The costs of this are calculated already in their cost of operation. That railroad isn't the one crying for property tax relief. It