

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I have a Page passing out to you information right now. Under the original bill, and the reason I talk about the original bill is so you understand the major change we have made and why it is important to either pick this direction or this direction. The information...take just ten taxpayers selected at random and I am using Douglas County now, new taxpayers, I haven't mentioned them to you, I do not know whether they are the biggest. Their names I think are among the biggest. You will see that if you stuck with the original bill of 10 percent, that you would have taken 1 percent of the total amount the state is going to raise for this whole program and you would have given it to those ten people, Mutual of Omaha, Northwestern Bell, Westroads Shopping Center, Woodmen of the World, Western Electric, Twin Towers, Brandeis Investments, First National Bank, Union Pacific, InterNorth. You would have taken 1 percent and given it to those ten people. That same 1 percent distributed to the people who are hurting in your area, distributed to the homeowner who is paying about 3 percent property taxes on actual value, that same \$1 million would be accommodating three thousand plus of those average homeowners who are hurting and who vote. Yes, no secret about it. You are sitting right now, as that bill is on the verge, on the verge of giving the greatest property tax direct relief program ever envisioned in the state to the average person who makes up 90 to 95 percent. Do I want it? Yes. Shoot, I might even be able to run for something and win once if you could get something like this through. But rest assured, rest assured it is there for the taking at an economical cost maybe that 1 percent sales tax which business would be happy to buy out on today. If they thought they could get this program through, I will bet you 99 percent of your average businesses would be happy for a 1 percent sales tax and this issue behind you for three or four or five years and maybe the exemptions out behind them, they would love it. Who won't like a program with a cap? I don't know that anybody wouldn't. Mutual of Omaha, it is not going to affect them one way or the other. Northwestern Bell, you know what they do. They say, we put it on Chizek's phone rate, so they get it back. Actually they have been putting it on mine, Chizek. But anyway, Senator Lamb's proposal goes a long ways towards undoing this and making it uneconomical and not helpful to the homeowner. Right now, just think of it, the homeowner is sitting there for the first time ever ready for