

outside the Chamber, please return to the Chamber and indicate your presence, please. Thank you. Please return to the Chamber, ladies and gentlemen, so we can continue with our closing. We are looking for Senator Chambers, Senator Goodrich, Senator Marsh and Senator Rupp. Senator Lamb, we are looking for Senator Marsh and Senator Goodrich. Did you wish to start your closing before they come?

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, I might also ask that the noise level be reduced.

SPEAKER NICHOL: When you are ready we will get that down for you. Senator Marsh is here now.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members...

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) Let's hold it down so we can hear Senator Lamb speak, please. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: All I am asking you to do is put the bill back in the form that we had it before, the \$1,000 cap with a 10 percent rebate. I want to point out that this bill does not repeal the homestead exemption that is already on the books. Some of the other property tax bills have done that, but that \$18.3 million that we voted last year for the first \$3,000 exemption on homes is not repealed in this bill. Some other bills have had that in them, but that does not happen. So what we do have now in effect is 44...over \$44 million in homestead exemption already authorized. That includes the \$18.3 million. That includes low income people. That includes the veterans' preference. Those are in there, so we do have money in there for tax reduction, property tax reduction for homestead people, homestead exemption. Now this will also give homestead relief. It gives relief to everybody. It's 10 percent across the board. It is fair and equitable. We have had a lot of discussion about the "bigs" getting too much but we put the \$1,000 rebate in there because the first thought that one senator had was that Northwestern Bell would get \$30,000 refund. Okay, so we took that out. And I can tell you that it does not take a very big farmer to come up against that \$10,000 tax bill or a \$1,000 rebate. It does not take a very big farmer. So if you are going to make it fair and equitable for farmers, for businessmen, this has to stay in it. Now as I told Senator DeCamp before, if we get this down to it's essentially a homestead exemption bill, there