

General's Opinion that came down was that farm land valuations would have to be valued at the same rate that residential property was. What, we are asking in this exemption, in 556, basically to retain the status quo. Amendment 4, as you know, passed in the cities, passed in Douglas County and passed in my district specifically. I think there is probably only one other district in the state that would use this exemption, 556, Senator Chambers' more than my district in south Omaha. I think that all we are asking again is that you seriously consider and vote to bring this bill out to the floor. It will not probably be voted on this year. If it is, as Senator Labeledz priority bill, I would urge your support of it. Right now all that is being asked is that there are 25 votes to bring it out of committee. 556 will do nothing more than Amendment 4 asked and that we had to call a special session for. It will ask that we retain the status quo and I hope that you will support this motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis and then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I am a member of the Revenue Committee. I voted against the advancement of 556. I will oppose, although I expect to be in the minority, the motion this morning. Last year we passed at the end of the year LB 809, the Homestead Exemption Act. There was an \$18 million price tag for that bill and we can't pay for it this year. It is not in our budget. You take a look at the preliminary report of the Appropriations Committee and we have got an \$18 million bill that we haven't paid. If you go out to the county clerks and you ask them, have people been showing up for their homestead exemptions? And they will say, you bet they have, in some counties 90 percent, in other counties 95 percent. In some counties 97 percent of the taxpayers have filed for homestead exemptions and we don't have any money for them. And it seems to me we are getting asked to go to the well again in 556 to expand the homestead exemption and we haven't met our obligations from the last time around. Now I am not so sure there isn't a fairer measure that should be given to the needy. I have supported a lot of programs for the needy in my years down here, but when you have got before you a bill that you can't pay of \$18 million, I don't see why you keep writing more red ink. This at this time is premature, in my estimation. That is my first argument.