

Secondly, I respond to the argument of need, but this issue is cast in a two-sided sword, first, need and, secondly, age. You know it seems to me that property taxes are bad. They are painful for people. They are painful for the needy in particular without regard to their age. If you want to attack the pain of property tax, you have some form of general property tax relief like, I would suggest, the general homestead exemption which will have the same benefit for the elderly that it does for the young and will be very helpful for the needy in particular. It seems to me our highest priority should be funding of that program, not one that differentiates between the needy young and the needy elderly and only gives relief to the needy elderly. There are needy young people as well and it seems to me that a more generalized approach, like the homestead exemption, will respond to a broader base of need than 556. My third argument, this bill means the fate of several other bills, measures which were kept in the Revenue Committee because they gave relief to some form of the general tax-paying public, were kept in committee because we made a general agreement that we weren't going to give specialized assistance to one form of the equation of taxpayers out there and not to others. We reported out general kinds of property tax relief measures. LB 38 for Senator Lamb. LB 712 by Senator Johnson. The matter of state aid. Those are general forms of property tax relief. We did not pick and choose from among people to reward certain forms and then continue to tax heavily others. If 556 comes up, I fully expect to see a number of other bills that the Revenue Committee was capable of keeping in committee argued on the floor and passage demanded and equity encouraged and the cry being, if you can help those people, you can help us. It will be the end...it will not be the end, it will be the beginning of a long, long litany, a litany that should already be clogged with the voices of people out there whom we promised last year \$18 million of property tax relief and we haven't funded it and we don't have any way of getting it now with the revenues we have. You can't get there from here. You can't meet our existing obligations in law...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...with what we have got coming in. And 556 is the thumb in the dam. If you pull the thumb out, there is a rush of bills that can come out here for relief of different businesses, different parts of the farm economy