

exemptions while at the same time putting an enormous exemption bill, 219, on the floor. Now I want to vote to put 556 on the floor because I essentially support the measure. I don't think it is a bad measure.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: But I thought you ought to understand what the real dynamic is on this issue. It really is important that we take extreme care in protecting our tax base because the more it gets riddled, the higher my taxes are going to be and Senator DeCamp's taxes are going to be and everybody else's taxes are going to be. The more exemptions we create, the higher the general tax rates are. You have got to keep the exemptions very limited.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman, your time...do you want to be recognized?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I won't take too much time. I just want to say that I rise in support of Senator Labeledz's LB 566 (sic) and think we should advance it to the floor. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Higgins. Senator Higgins, just a moment. (Gavel.) Under the south balcony you are making too much noise, please, would you hold it down? Thank you. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I, too, rise in support of this bill. We are only talking about low income, less than \$10,400 a year income, elderly and disabled people. We are not talking about giving it to people that are able to take care of themselves, people that are able to go out and earn a little more money to pay their higher taxes. The saddest thing for me when I went door-to-door in my district was when I met one woman and there was a "For Sale" sign up and she was raking the leaves. And I said, oh, I see you are selling your house. And she burst into tears. And she said, yes.