

CLERK: The next amendment I have to the bill is by Senators Hoagland, Withem and Vard Johnson.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Withdraw that amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem's amendment is withdrawn. Senator Johnson's amendment.

CLERK: Yes, to provide 18 to fund 809. (See Johnson amendment found on page 1925 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Johnson on an amendment to LB 722.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I think that we probably ought to deal with this amendment, up or down, so that we can figure out precisely where we want to go. I decided, a couple of weeks ago, that I would propose as an amendment to the mainline appropriations bill the funding of the general homestead exemption, that is LB 809. So this amendment would increase the appropriations bill by \$18.3 million. Now we have another bill going through which I think is, I don't recall the number, maybe 727 or 726, I can't recall the precise number, which would fund the general homestead. I personally felt that probably the homestead funding out to be in the mainline appropriations bill, but it was not. It seems to me that we are going to have to cross the Rubicon on the homestead. If we are going to fund it, it is going to cost \$18.3 million, we are going to have to increase the tax rates, no if, ands, ors, buts or maybe's. If we are not going to fund it then we should take the other homestead bill that is moving through, essentially gut it, that is 727, I think that is the number, essentially gut it and either repeal LB 809, or in the alternative defer implementation for one year. So at this juncture I would like this body to show its sense with respect to the funding of the general homestead exemption. If the homestead exemption is not to be funded then I think I will simply prepare the amendments necessary to defer implementation of the general homestead exemption for the companion bill, 727, I'll defer implementation for one year. But I would, at this juncture, like to have a sense, personally, from the Legislature regarding the funding of the homestead exemption. That is what this amendment will