

Senators that when we go out and we make a campaign promise we keep it, and when we pass a bill, we do it with every intention of following through and funding it, or you don't pass it. So I am just urging you, if you want to have any viability for this body or for yourself, if you voted for this, if you want to keep your credibility, if you want to be honest with the homeowners, we will keep this homestead exemption and we will fund it. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Order in the Chamber please. (Gavel.) The conversational tones make it difficult to hear the speaker. The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to the motion. I agree with the other Senators, Senator Lynch and Higgins who have said that we promised the people of this state a homestead exemption. I feel that is what I did when I passed that...when I voted for that particular piece of legislation that Senator Newell introduced last year. There is another reason why I am going to be voting for it because I feel that the way we distribute state aid is wrong. I think that when it originally was started, it probably should have been established in the homestead exemption. The state should have taken the money, given it directly to the people instead of going through the local political subdivisions. I don't know how many of you saw the recent editorial that ran in the Omaha World Herald yesterday talking about the salary increases that some of the local political subdivisions are giving to their employees, such as Omaha Public Schools and other school districts around the Omaha and state area, and they are able to give these high salary increases to their local employees, where at the same time we are having trouble giving to our state employees a 3 percent pay increase. I think what we should do, and it is something to consider, is to take some of that state aid money and put it in the form of a homestead exemption. Give it to the people. I think they are the ones that need the money, not these local political subdivisions. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, Senator Sieck is next.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I urge you to reject the Hoagland motion to repeal 809. I have an amendment that is being passed out right now that is up at the desk that will put off the homestead exemption for a