

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vickers would move to return 172 to Select File for a specific amendment. That amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I don't like property taxes any better than anybody else. I don't like the fact that valuations fluctuate any better than anybody else. I certainly don't like the fact that valuations are fluctuating downward, in my part of the world, any better than anybody else. But it does seem to me that this body owes the right, owes the responsibility if you will to the people of this state to be somewhat consistent, somewhat consistent. I recognize that a lot of inconsistencies are built into a lot of things that we do in here. But when we so blatantly say, to the political subdivisions of this state, that if a valuation increases you ought not benefit from it, then I cannot stand by and let this same body say, to those political subdivisions who happen to be in a different area of the state and happen to be caught in a situation where the valuations are decreasing a bunch, that we are going to penalize you for it anyhow. If you can't benefit when valuations increase it seems to me it is fair to say you shouldn't lose just because valuations decrease. Now to those people that might say well those folks have got to suffer out there too, those folks have got to tighten their belt as well, let me remind you those people who are making those decisions out there are those property taxpayers, and lest anybody says well those schools out there in the rural areas had ought to bite the bullet, those people are out there facing the damn gun. They are biting the bullet all the time. I don't like the philosophy that this body seems to be, the last couple of days, beginning to develop, and that is that somehow or other if you are in an area where valuations are going down a bunch that the services of government shouldn't apply to you as much, and that somehow or other you are second-class citizens. I don't consider ourselves to be second-class citizens. I don't consider our children to be second-class citizens. I'm not going to stand here idly and let us treat them like second-class citizens, and that is what we are about to do. Now if we can't have it the one way, then I don't want the other either. If we can't say that we are going to be fair, we are just going to apply it to one side, then I don't want