

hands? I do.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: (Microphone not activated.) ...spoken in opposition to the Pappas amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Johnson, the Chair recognizes Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I would object to calling the question at this time. I think there has only been one person who has spoken in opposition to Senator Pappas's amendment and I think there have been four who have spoken on behalf of the amendment.

SENATOR BARRETT: Correction, Senator Johnson, five proponents, one opponent. The Chair would sustain your objection.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you.

SENATOR BARRETT: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: I used my time to call the question. It was ruled out of order. I will pass.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I know that a lot of people are milling around, have gone to their offices, have in effect shut out the dialogue on this incredibly important issue to the state. And I would hope during my next five minutes I could gather your attention so that you will understand more carefully what is happening on this whole issue. Senator Wesely has offered an amendment to the early retirement bill to simply provide that people in the public schools, who retire early, will be treated exactly as they would be treated for social security purposes. Thus I, as an unponioned person, make a decision personally to retire at age 62, and I can go to the social security administration and begin to receive my social security benefits, but my benefits will be somewhat less than they would be at age 65. They will not be fully reduced actuarially, they will be partially reduced. Senator Wesely has said if we permit an early retirement program in this state let us do the same thing, let us reduce it the same steps that social security affects the