

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will wait with my remarks for the close, Mr. President.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Vard Johnson, please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to pose a couple of questions to Senator DeCamp. Senator DeCamp, you voted against this bill and I know that in the newspaper you have indicated...you voted against the kill motion. I noticed in the newspaper that you have decided to remain firmly committed to no tax increase, and if that means doing away with some of the homestead exemptions, you are prepared to support that. Are you going to support this bill knowing that it will trigger a tax increase?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator DeCamp, do you want to answer his question?

SENATOR DECAMP: That is an interesting question and there certainly are 47 others the question could be posed to. Let me say this, Senator Johnson, I am against a tax increase and I am unlikely to support anything that is going to ultimately result in that and in order to get to the position to where we know what all the pieces in the stew are, so to speak, since a lot of people think this is an important bill, it is something that I am looking at along with other things. But I still hold firm to the idea that no tax increase is necessary if we are very cautious and one would hope that we wouldn't do anything, be it this bill or anything else, if that directly caused a tax increase. And that is certainly beating around the bush, isn't it?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I understand.

SENATOR DECAMP: My point is I do want to make sure that we do what is right eventually.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: All right. Let me, let me just make the point, and it is a very simple point. Governor Kerrey has taken many of us aside in the last 24 hours and has said that he has a plan to avoid the tax rate increase from