

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply rise to support the Hefner, et cetera amendment. I think that most of the elderly people are honest. And I think that hopefully, maybe through the study, I'd like to have this in place and then maybe the study will say that it is impractical. But I think it should be in place. So I simply rise to support the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally agree with the concept of revising the present form of the bill so that it becomes more realistic based upon needs of people. But I believe that this amendment may be too simplistic to deal with the problems that we are going to find when we really get into a study on it, when we are talking about assets, value tests and so on. And I think that this should be looked at through the process of an interim study so that we can come together with a bill which addresses all the kinds of concerns that we see surfacing with the use of the homestead exemption, and not just piecemeal try to do this on short notice, like we are trying to do here today. So I will oppose this amendment, although I do support making some kinds of changes in a revised version of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Labeledz, do you wish to speak a second time on the matter?

SENATOR LABEDZ: Just briefly, to what Senator Lundy said a moment ago about the asset test and spoke of my situation as an example. There are so many ways, and I think we all realize that. When I mentioned my property and the cabin property, it would be very simple for me to take my name off the property entirely, whether I owned an \$80,000 cabin, or a \$500,000 farm, and just put it on the names of the children. We could, in the event that this study is completed, I would suggest that we...that the property could not be transferred in the next five or ten years to any children while the homestead exemption is being received by the elderly couple living in their home. We cannot do this as quickly as we say we are doing it because we have to give guidelines as to what they should do and what they can't do. I could very easily, tomorrow, go to the courthouse and turn an \$80,000 cabin, or a \$400,000 farm over to my children so that I would be eligible for the homestead exemption. I'm not saying that there are a lot of people out there that do that. But from what I understand, talking to a