

\$18 million. There are some easier ways and we have some proposals that will do that. But as I have said before, and as I said last year in the regular session, we had committed more dollars than we were going to have available. I would hope that the economy will level off or turn around but I don't anticipate that. In the absence of that, I doubt very much that the proposals we have offered here so far that I have seen will bring about the (recorder malfunction) into balance. I am reviewing those budget figures. I appreciate the work that has been done by many individuals and the various committees but at this time I am going to withhold judgment on LB 6 until I can have a little more information. I want to point out again that we can stand here very righteously and deny the responsibility for property taxes but if you can't find out from someone within this body how much money we cost local governments, I would suggest we can go back to our county treasurers, our courthouses, and we can find out very readily. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Eret.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. Chairman and members, just in case this bill does advance, I am considering putting an amendment in on Select File that deals with Section 9, the repealer section. Included in the repealed sections is 77-3516.01. That was a provision that the body put in when this homestead exemption was approved that would have a statement placed in each recipient's tax statement that their tax was being covered by the state, not by the local government. Even if this homestead exemption is repealed, there are still other homestead exemptions that this applied to and I think that provision should remain in force. I also plan to look into another item. I do not...on Section 7, I do not quite understand why the Section 77-3507 is not included. It had not been included before but that is the section that pertains to retired persons' low income exemptions and unless there is some other provision, it seems like that section should be included in that section. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Schmit touched a little bit on exactly what I want to touch on. I have been preaching controlling local control spending for the last three years and that the local citizens do not show up at the budget meetings and they