

state aid to education, that money should have gone into a general homestead exemption and I guess the more important reason why I'd like to see us not do away with it as of this particular special session is because next January some of the senators are going to be faced with a situation that is not going to be entirely comfortable to them and it is going to be a result of a reappraisal that took place in Douglas County earlier this spring. The reappraisal jacked up everybody's property value in Douglas County, and since then, since that time the local political subdivision, the schools, the cities, the county within Douglas County have increased their taxes. They took advantage of the reappraisal to increase their particular budgets upwards of 10 percent. Senator DeCamp touched on it earlier this week dealing with an amendment that talked about how some of the local subdivisions just haven't been doing that good of a job of holding the line on their budgets and I feel that that particular example that Senator DeCamp was citing throughout his speeches is probably...the best example would be in the area of Douglas County. Now, what is going to happen in Douglas County is that next January the tax bills are going to go out and all those budgets that the local subdivisions put into effect, OPS, the school districts in my particular legislative district, Douglas County, all of them, their tax bills are going to go out and the people are going to be upset because their property tax bill is going to skyrocket. People are already upset about property taxes in this state, but in Douglas County they are going to be even more upset because their property taxes are going to, in some cases, increase a quarter percent, increase at least a quarter of what they are presently paying. I had an opportunity to talk to a large number of my constituents this last fall. I knocked on a few of the doors in my area and talked to a number of my constituents and their number one concern was taxes. And, in fact, one of the more important ones was property taxes and my concern is that if we do away with this homestead exemption, we're taking away an option for the people in...for the senators coming back next January when we have to grapple again with property taxes. I don't think it is going to make that much of a difference as far as costwise if we just hold off, wait until next January and if there is support within this body to do away with the homestead exemption at that time, then so be it. But this is not the...this particular special session was called to deal with the particular budget crunch that we are facing at the state level and we're not going to