

receiving this last year, but he put the blame on the Legislature for these cuts. I didn't feel at the time that it was a fair criticism of the Legislature at that particular time as I don't now, but what we have is local officials and local administrators criticizing the Legislature for their having to increase their budgets. They are blaming us for the cutbacks. They are blaming us for the increased taxes because of the cutbacks that we have had to place upon them and I want you to think about the fact that here we are in special session and we are talking at least cutting back the local subdivisions by 3 percent and there is proposals up there to cut them back up to 6 percent, such as Senator DeCamp's. And so we're going to be faced with the situation of cutting them back and then being, on the other hand, getting whipsawed by the local administrators, the local public officials because they are going to come back and say, you know who caused these property taxes to go up? It was the Legislature. They cut back our state aid to education. They made cutbacks at our local government and they are the ones to blame and it is not going to be that far away. Voters are going to remember the fact that here we were in session in November, possibly into December and we made those cutbacks and they are going to get their reappraisal, their new tax statements in January and they are going to put the two together and we're going to get blamed for it. And that is why I see this opportunity with this homestead exemptions, standing out there like a beacon in the dark. It is an opportunity for us to say, well, we do have property tax problems and, yes, we are going to raise the money to fund it because when you go back to talk to your voters back in your districts, you're going to have to face the situation that it is going to be uncomfortable. So I urge you to at least consider not passing LB 6 during the special session. I think that we will have an opportunity next session, if you want to do away with it then, if all these horror stories don't come to pass, then you'll have an opportunity and say, well, I guess Senator Abboud was wrong. I'm not catching any heat for property taxes, so we can just go ahead and do away with it, but we're not going to see that large of a savings doing away with it right now. Ask Senator Hefner. What is going to be the dollar amount to these local county officials by doing away with it right now? He didn't have the figures. Senator Johnson isn't here and I haven't heard of any figures forthcoming on the floor of the Legislature and how much money we're going to save.