

MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATOR DON ASHWORTH
SENATOR MIKE SLOAN
SENATOR BILL RAGGIO

ASSEMBLYMAN BOB PRICE
ASSEMBLYMAN BOB CRADDOCK
ASSEMBLYMAN LONIE CHANEY
ASSEMBLYMAN LOUIS BERGEVIN

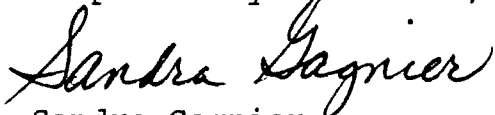
GUESTS:

SENATE JEAN FORD

ASSEMBLYMAN MIKE MALONE

At 10:40, Chairman Price called the meeting of the subcommittees of the two Taxation Committees to order in the Las Vegas City Hall Council Chambers. A group of approximately 200 concerned citizens was present to testify on the various tax proposals and bills before the committees this session. Attached is a copy of the verbatim minutes of this hearing. Also attached are Exhibit A, statement from Tom Hood, CCCTA President regarding SB 204, and Exhibit B, a statement from John Podgrusky, Council of Domestic Affairs regarding AB 147.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Gagnier
Assembly Attache

FEBRUARY 24, 1979

JOINT TAXATION COMMITTEE HEARING

LAS VEGAS CITY HALL

10:40 A.M.

ATTENDING: Senator Don Ashworth, Senator Bill Raggio, Senator Mike Sloan, Assemblyman Bob Craddock, Assemblyman Bob Price, Assemblyman Bergeman, Assemblyman Chaney

GUESTS: Senator Jean Ford and Assemblyman Mike Malone

Assemblyman Price: Now, I'll kind of give you a little rundown on what your two taxation committees have been doing up to this point in time. Before you, in this sheet that we handed out, that has 9 pages on it, I think. I have put together the summaries of all the various tax bills that have been introduced by various legislators, organizations and so forth, during the course of the session so far, and as you know, we are getting ready to start into our fifth week and these are all the bills up through Thursday. I think we had a bill introduced on our side Friday that is not on here. These are simply summaries. If I had attempted to put together a package with the total bills, it would have been quite large. So what I did, is took the summaries. Our intention was, and is today, to receive comments from the general public about what types of taxes you feel should be given priority in our efforts here to get a revised tax structure in this State. You may speak about some of the particular bills you have been reading about in the newspaper and/or these and as a matter of fact, some folks have asked if they could talk about some other related matters like Boards of Equalization and so forth. We intend to be very informal today and give some leeway in the areas where you are talking. We realize, and the reason we are having this meeting, is because everybody can't afford to get on a plane and go up to Carson City for one or two days and sit around and wait to speak on individual bills as they come up. I included and passed out a number of sheets that show scheduled hearings for the next couple of weeks on both the Senate and the Assembly side. One of the problems with those types of things, even those are somewhat variable because a bill might be scheduled and then something would happen and it would be changed to another day and that makes it very inconvenient sometimes for people are flying back and forth or trying to go up there. With that I think we will go ahead and start comment. Well, let me give you a little background on what we have been doing. During the first two weeks of the legislature, the taxation committees met three times a week in the afternoons and the late evenings and we started to set up a program of what we called orientation. We had asked agencies, cities, counties, the school districts - everyone that was interested or had a part of anything to do with the tax structure right now - we had them come in and appear before us and had somewhat of what you might call a schooling session. Many of your assemblyman and senators are quite familiar with the tax area and there were others of us who were not familiar. In our case it was starting from the beginning and learning and in some of the cases, other people who had been dealing with it, it was simply a refresher course. But, we spent a couple of weeks learning the impacts, of what would happen if changed this tax, that tax, trying to learn which cities depend on cigarette tax - for some, that's the main part of the income; which ones depend on property tax; which ones depend on sales tax and so forth. Then, beginning the third week we started having hearings on some of the bills that were out at that point in time. For the most part, as we all know, Question 6 that was passed on the ballot, dealt singularly in the area of property tax. It only dealt with property tax. If you happened to be living in a mobile home or renting a space, or you were living in an apartment or anything of that nature, it would have no effect on you whatsoever as far as reducing your taxes. So what the assembly and the senate has been attempting to do is take a

look at putting together a comprehensive tax reform package of some nature that would be of benefit to wider range of Nevadans. Basically we have been looking at three packages so far. Three concepts, and one is similar to Proposition 6. Another deals in the area of renter rebate or a rebate system whereby you would receive tax credits on your property, or if you were renting, you would receive, if you qualify, money back in the form of a rent rebate. We have been looking at another package, Governor List's package, that basically deals in reducing the rates of tax that we have. All of these deal with reducing the tax, either by rate or ratio, one way or the other. It would appear that at least on the assembly side, we will be listening to the last part of these three packages next Monday and Tuesday, and we feel that probably by the end of next week or the beginning of the following week, that we will actually, after having heard all these things for the last four and one half weeks, go ahead and start putting together what we think are our idea of what the tax reform package is. The senate has been going through the same process and we hope that within the next few weeks, or a few days really, that you will begin to see something emerge. So anyway, the purpose today is to try and get input from you on your ideas of where you think help is needed and which bills you think may be good and which ones are bad and so forth. So with thank, we'll start off. I am going to ask former Assemblyman Bill Kissam - he has to leave to go to school, I believe - so we are going to let him make a comment first and we will start through. Our intended time schedule is to go until about 12:30 today.

Bill Kissam: Thank you. My name is Bill Kissam, former assemblyman, District 4. As chairman of the legislative committee of the Aging Services for Southern Nevada, I have been working hard with the senior citizens and for the senior citizens. I will be teaching a class following the legislature starting a week from this morning. The details will be in The Rocket for the local senior citizens that want to avail themselves of this course - following the legislature, not just on tax bills, but on everything relating to senior citizens, whether those senior citizens live in mobile home parks, condominiums, individual residences or apartments. We are concerned down here for the senior citizens. We do ask your help. We ask your attention to their problems. We know that the workload you have facing you in Carson City is monstrous. I do know what you face from my past experience. I do ask you to keep in mind that these seniors are desperately in need of help and as you see by the attendance in this room, the multitude of the people here are senior citizens. They are the concerned ones that are willing to come out and be heard and let you know that they do need help. Gentleman, I appreciate your time very much. I know what you have gone through to spend your weekends off down here and listening to our pleas for Southern Nevada, so all I can say at this time is thank you so much for your help.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: By the way, we do have a sign in sheet that we have been passing around and we would appreciate it if you would put down your name and address on it and keep going. Okay, who wants to start off.

Irene Lucas: My name is Irene Lucas and we are private home owners and we live in a Section which is now a dirty word - Section 11. The problems with the tax, really, this is so ridiculous. We moved out there. We bought the property, about 13 or 14 years ago, and we moved out there. We had to bring in electricity and there was no water. We had a well. We had to put in a septic tank and when they came through with water, we paid a big water assessment. We had to pay the power company to bring power out to us. There was no roads. We had no mail or any of that. We loved it out there and we wanted a nice little ranch and we had it. We pioneered the whole area. There wasn't a house. There were I believe four homes between Sahara, Decatur, nothing further. That was it. But anyhow, it was fine. They came through with water and building did start. Any of you who are familiar with property values, know what happened out in that area. Our property is ruined as far as we are concerned.

They put a tract across the street from us. A stone fence. We look at the back of houses. There are sidewalks and street lights. There is a block fence along our whole two and one half acres that is scandalous. There is no neighborhood ethics. The Planning Commission and the County Commissioners have - this is not progress - this is a rape of the land. What they have done there is terrible. Well, they've put in some big expensive homes. Real Estate being what it is here and builders developing that area. Really put in some fantastic homes. Of course, we just went along our own way. We're just little people and we had a very low cost place to live that we planned on paying off and retiring there. Well, it's not going to be that way. We have had to get rid of horses. We still have chickens. I am expecting a petition that we are going to have to get rid of our chickens. We had to get rid of horses because they have ruined the area. There is no such thing as bridle paths - nothing. They have ruined all the beauty that Las Vegas stood for. That's why we moved here. That's why we paid our dues here and helped build this into a finer town. We paid our share. Now, they have been coming out there, with all the expensive homes out there, this has been the tax assessor's dream and our nightmare. We have been assessed - they don't come out there every 5 years like they are supposed to. I believe the statutes say it is 5 years. Most of the areas in town it hasn't been 10 or 15 years. Our area is every couple of years. We got hit about 3 times very badly since we have been out there. But this last time, with the new projects they have put out there - of course they have got to go into this new sewer system - they have got to pay for that. They're doing on the taxes out in that area. Which is fine. That's alright. If I want to buy a home tomorrow, I know what I am getting into. But I bought my house 15 years ago and they can't put me off from that property now because they assessed our property at \$101,430 and this piece of property we paid \$17,000 for. When we appealed this, they told us, oh, look what your property's worth now, you're lucky. We're not lucky. That's our home. We are not real estate developers. My husband cannot retire and us live in that house even though it's paid for. We can't afford it.

Assemblyman Price: In the area of the things that you have talked about so far - probably the two areas that we may be able to deal with - of course, as far as growth, that's happening all over. It seems like no matter how far out you get, the cities, not only in Southern Nevada, but it's happening in Reno and other fast growing areas, are moving out and people that were out in the country are now ending up in the cities. But let me ask you just about the 5 year cycle. One of the things that we have heard a lot of complaints about and it would be a possible consideration by the legislature, is the fact on this getting assessed once every 5 years, of which the State law says they are supposedly supposed to come in, every 5 years, although we have some areas that have gone as long as 13 years without being assessed. But anyhow, they are supposed to come every 5 years. The problem in an area like yours, is that if they don't come around in 5 years, you are probably lucky if you assessment hasn't gone up more than 100%. So some people are saying that they think that's an awful big bite to take all at one time and what would you think of shorter cycle of assessments. For example, in some areas they actually do a type of assessment every year with an adjustment every 5 years, for example, so that the bite is a little bit smaller.

Irene Lucas: Why not spread it around, like you should. I have friends that haven't been assessed and have lived in their homes for 10 years. It's never changed. We are talking about \$2000 a year in taxes presently. How could a person retire and pay \$2000 a year taxes even though they might have their home paid for

Assemblyman Price: We are dealing with that in some areas to now, depending on age groups. We are looking at senior citizens so that if a person was 65 or over they would qualify for certain types of things. One thing that they are looking at is the deferred tax tax problem where your taxes could be deferred up to a point. In addition to that they are looking at reduced taxes for seniors up to that point. But I am not sure if you every could offset a \$100,000 tax.

Irene Lucas: Well, we still have a septic tank. We maintain a septic tank. We don't use their expensive sewer system. There has got to be something that a person - we are priced out of our area because of all the new property values coming in there. You can't put a person out. Well, they can I guess. I really feel sorry for the senior citizens here. We put in a lot of years. If you just move here, it isn't so bad. Where have we got to go. If we move to California we go to the top of their tax structure. We are stuck here with Nevada.

Assemblyman Price: I glad that you pointed that out because that's one of the falacies of Proposition 6 and Proposition 13. As you move in and buy, you do go to the top of the tax.

Irene Lucas: But you know what you are getting into. That makes sense.. Why should I go to California now and enjoy the benefits of people that did without a lot of things to get the place where it is.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much. I hope we will be able to solve some of those problems.

Senator Raggio: I just want to make a couple of observations that may be helpful to the audience as well as to the committee. The purpose of the joint session of the taxation committees is to try to save a lot of time to reach a conclusion and an ultimate package in dealing with taxation this session which will meet a lot of the problems. I may say for the benefit of the audience that most of us are extremely aware of the specific problems which the lady just addressed which are not only true of this area, but certainly the rest of the State. I think there are some basic things that should be understood and maybe or perhaps everyone here does not understand them. The legislature has some parameters within which it must deal. The State Constitution requires, with certain exceptions, that all property, regardless of whether it's an individual householder or whether it's a large hotel or a utility or something of that kind, that all properties must be assessed at a uniform rate. So the legislature does not have, even if we desire - do not have the ability to give special attention by Statute - to give special consideration to a special type of property. And unfortunately, or fortunately, whichever your view might be, we are limited within those parameters. Question 6, of course, deals with a constitutional amendment and in that area, some amendment has already occurred. You will recall, within your memory, two years ago, the greenbelt amendment was added to the Constitution which allows some special treatment of property which is for agricultural use and for greenbelt areas. The Constitution now allows, and the legislature provided pursuant to that Constitutional amendment, that you could treat those properties in a special manner. That, of course, if the aim of Question 6, to allow a treatment of special types of property. And, Question 6 would, as you can see from the summary before you, and if you have made a study of it, you understand, Question 6 would turn back the appraised value of all property, whether it's a stick home, as we term it, or a single family residence or business property or commercial property, or whatever, to the appraised value that was set for 1975/1976, and then would allow only a percentage increase each year. One of the problems that I think the Chairman was addressing was the fact that under state law, all real property, theoretically by Statute, must be reassessed, within 5 years. So if you live in one section of town, your property may have been reassessed in 1975 or 1976, but in some other sections, your property may not have been appraised for 5 years. So that's one of the inequities that is in Proposition 6 and one of the concerns that the committee's are having dealing with this problem. One of the other inequities that I see, and I put inequities in quotes, because some may not see it as that, with Question 6, is that, if there is a provision that if you acquire property after '75/76 base year, that it will then be assigned its new appraised value. So, that on one particular block, where homes may all be similar, a result can occur in future years where every house on that block, because people have a tendency to sell every 5 or 6 years, will have a different appraised valuation. These are some of the concerns that we have. So, just to point in the direction we are trying to move, the legislature has, of course, some ideas on other taxes, besides real property tax. Most of us are convinced that we should remove the sales tax from food items. That takes a

Constitutional Amendment - excuse me - it takes an election because that original sales tax on food occurred as a result of a referendum vote by the citizens and the only way that can be changed is by such a vote. We are dealing in other areas to try to accommodate and none of us, I don't believe, have taken firm positions yet, and that's why this kind of a meeting is helpful, but the Chairman mentioned a rebate and it took me a long way to get to this point but I want to explain to you why that's being considered. We cannot, in the absence of a Constitutional Amendment, assess real property at a lower rate than commercial property. The only way that can be done, perhaps, is to allow people to pay the proper tax that the State Constitution requires and then by some method of refund or rebate, make an equitable return. That issue, I might say Mr. Chairman, and to the Committee and to the audience, is not determined as to whether or not that would be constitutional. Some of us are concerned with the possibility of posing a test case to the Supreme Court before the end of the session in order to try to determine whether or not that would be constitutional. None of these are my ideas or any ideas of the individuals members of the committee, but concepts which are being considered for the reasons I indicated. Mr Chairman, I didn't mean to take that long, but I think the committee has had the benefit of a lot of this discussion and sometimes it hasn't filtered down to the people so that they understand some of our problems. Thank you for your patience.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you.

George Haws: I am always glad to grant Senator Raggio any time he might be pleased to use. He is one of my oldest friends in Nevada. I'm George Haws, 330 West Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, 89106. I'm the Clark County Director of the National Retired Teachers Association, American Association of Retired Persons, Senior Community Service Employment Program. That costs quite a bit on a long distance telephone call. I have what is termed a poverty level program. If you are single, you cannot earn over \$3,140 or \$4,120 if married. I have been here in Las Vegas since July of 1977. I have placed 35% of my enrollees in private employment plus many more who were ineligible for my program but had the ability to fill certain jobs I had available. My best placement and recent placement was one of my enrollees placed in a bank at \$960 a month. I expect him to be a vice president in a few months and some of you who are smiling, I hope I will send you his business card as a vice president. The worst law you passed in 1977 and this won't reflect on some of the people who are facing me right now, because some of you were on my side. I might explain that I was a lobbyist for the last several sessions for the AFL-CIO. This laws deals a low blow to all senior citizens. This is a letter I received from Harold E. Reeve, Chief, Division of National Training, U.S. Department of Labor dated March 15, 1978. Not reading the whole letter I will just cover certain parts. "We have been informed that the employer/employment security law as amended by the 1977 legislature precludes eligibility for unemployment compensation to persons who are part of an unemployment work relief or work training program assisted or financial in whole or in part by any Federal agency or an agency of a state or political subdivision thereof" which includes my particular program that I had first up in Carson City before I came down here. Now I am going to give you the exact law that I hope that you people here will help rescind, strike off the books. By the way, a couple of calls I had with management, who were sort of again me the last session, say they did not think this particular law should be on the books either. Please note paragraph 612.115 (b), Page 20599, Attached Employment Security Laws of the State of Nevada, Chapter 612, Unemployment Compensation as amended by the 1977 Legislature. The only one of 25 states that my program operates in, Nevada, that has a Federal contract in this law that is instituted and enforced. Nevada is the only one. In this same bill, with the voluntary quit, 10-week waiting period, which you know we battled on and the worst part of that is that the Federal law was signed by President Carter on April 4, 1977, one month before this 10-week waiting period bill came before the legislature and we lost it by one vote. Yet, the legislature did pass that particular bill. Sales tax on food must be removed. You know perfectly well that you can remove part of it in this 1979 legislature. The remainder, if you have to have a special election, which you can if you wish. I say get with it and keep at it. We senior citizens appreciate your work on the tax rebate problem. Earlier this month on February 12, Jean Dutton, the Clark County tax assessor and his deputy, assisted all of my eligible enrollees on my program in filling out the necessary

forms. I was going to talk to you about mobile homes, but I see there is a big delegation here and they will probably cover more points than I was even going to bring up, so I'll skip that part of my program. I personally appreciate the dedication of you legislators who took the time to devote your free day to come to City Hall and listen to our complaints. May you have a rewarding session. I wish I were there.

Senator Ashworth: George, I wonder if you could give us just a little more information on the function of the rebate program as far as the seniors are concerned for the simple reason, as Senator Raggio has pointed out, this has given some of us on the committee a concern, not in relation to that program, but in relation to the rebate program, as under 204 which would affect renters. How is that actually carried out. You say Jean Dutton helped. What are we talking about number-wise. How many people were involved in that.

George Haws: Sixty.

Senator Ashworth: In other words there were only 60 that . . .

George Haws: That's the limit that I had at that particular meeting that were assisted.

Senator Ashworth: The concern that we have is that we could be talking in the renter program as many as 100,000. And, we are just wondering about the mechanics - from a mechanical vantage point - how this is all going to be done.

George Haws: Senator Ashworth, you are a very new acquaintance of mine. I have been with this problem many many years. I am a mobile home owner. For a long time I kept the limits on 10 years and then when Governor Laxalt was in there and they had this fellow that was head of this taxation committee, anyway, we finally had to go up to 12 years. I didn't let it for a long time and afterwards, I would be glad to talk to you but I think it would take a long extended time as to this particular method and most of the fellows here are fellows that know me and Senator Raggio knows I have been with this problem since its inception and did help to get through the first rebate program.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you.

Ann Thompson: My name is Ann Thompson, 617 Avenue "M", Boulder City. I'm president of the Nevada Library Association and I am here on behalf of the Clark County Library District. AB233 and AB248 would create grave programs for the Clark County Library District, because those two bills present grave problems for any special district. The Library District receives its' budget from property taxes at a rate of .0759 or approximately 7½¢ for every \$5 of the Constitutional limits of each \$100 per assessed valuation. On Page 26, Line 30 of AB233, is an indication of the ratio of assessed valuation. The full cash value will be reduced from the present 35% to 20%. A reduction of this magnitude will have a crippling impact on the Clark County Library District. For every 5% reduction, the Clark County Library Budget will be reduced by \$262,693 or over a quarter of a million dollars. Reducing the ratio of assessed value to an average of 20% will cost the Library District then \$788,079 or slight less than half of its' current budget. This amounts to more than the City of Las Vegas paid last year to support three library facilities. Even at the present level of taxation, Clark County Library District has severe shortages in staff, in books and in operating funds. Forty-one percent of the population of this community is registered at the Clark County Library District. There are using a library which offers seven-tenths of a book per person to them rather than the nationally recognized minimum standard which is three books per person. It's small wonder that people complain that they can't find the books that they want at the library. Two thousand of these people every week are queing up to reserves on books that they cannot find on the shelves. Our library patrons are served by one-third the staff that is recognized as a national standard. We operating the library at \$5.44 per capita rather than the \$9.67 which is, again, recognized nationally as the minimum necessary to provide adequate library service. In the Capp Bill, which is AB438, that bill would cost the Library District \$600,000 at a minimum. AB438 will cap the Library District's budget at 1975 budget levels with the provision that the percent of

population change and the percent of change in the consumer price index may be used to augment or increase its' budget. The Library budget in 1975 was \$1,000,045. This base is simply too low to support the growth of the Library District and its ever growing clientele. Even though the allowable increase of 13.3% for population growth and 25.3% change in the consumer price index, the augmented budget would match the revenues of the 1976/77 fiscal year. But, in the last two years, our patron registration at the Library has increased by 70%, not 13.3%. On January 1, 1977 there were 83,000 people who used the Library. On February 1, 1979 we had 145,626 library patrons using our Library. In the last two years there have been 58,000 people who have registered at the Library District to use the Library. Although 284 new residents move to the Las Vegas Valley every week, at the Library District we are registering 533 people every week. By 1980 we expect to serve 155,000. That's twice the number of people that we would have served in 1977 and yet it is the 1977 budget that AB438 expects the Library District to use 1977 dollars to buy 1980 books, even though the price of each book has jumped by \$2 and also to use 1977 dollars to pay 1980 wages which means reducing the low staff that we have even lower and also to use 1977 dollars to pay 1980 operating costs even though utility costs alone have risen 45%. Effectively, what this will do, is that it will expect 155,000 people, to use a 1977 library which was not even adequate in 1977. I urge you to seek responsible funding for the Library District and for other special districts. Thank you very much.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much. Before you get away, I might assure you that the Library Districts, we are getting a considerable amount of lobbying from them in Carson City. But I think that the problem you initially pointed out is worth enlarging momentarily to the public. Assemblyman Craddock has very and I think nicely, described the Nevada tax system and I think it would probably be true of any state, as a Crow's Nest that was put together with a lot of different taxes that somehow have been working in the State for a number of years and now we are faced with cutting here, changing here and so forth as a result of a "mandate of the people" by Proposition 6. This is why I said awhile ago and I want to mention it again. No matter whether we cut property taxes or we remove the sales tax on food or if we wanted to reduce gasoline taxes or anything that we do, is going to greatly affect some of the various districts, like library districts, fire districts, cities and so forth and somehow the legislature has to come up with, if we are going to do this, we have to come up with something to also kind of save them so that they don't go under. The bill that Mrs. Thompson was talking about is one of two bills that are in the legislature now, that says that state government, county government, city governments, library districts, school districts, are going to have to keep their spending within some type of a formula. Now, I would like to ask something because this has kind of been a question in a lot of our minds as to what exactly is it that the people have mandated us to do. I would like to ask for a show of hands of those people that feel that we should even explore the possibility of limiting how much the budget could be expanded, of cities, counties, school districts and library districts and those types of things. How many people think that we should try and work up a formula to limit their spendings going up each year.

An overwhelming majority of those present responded.

Assemblyman Price: How many people don't think that we should have a cap.

Very few responded to this question.

Assemblyman Price: I see. I personally have perceived that not only have the people asked us to lower taxes, but they have asked us to try and come up with some idea to force ourselves, the State government and other people to limit spending, and I'm not saying it's good, bad or indifferent. I'm only saying that I get the impression that the majority of the people out there want it done and I think we are going to try and do it and I hope that we will have the type of input from those special districts and everyone to try and make it as equitable as possible. I think we will all probably have to tighten the belt.

Mrs. Thompson: Oh, I repeat the very first thing that I talked about,

the AB233 which would reduce the ratio to 20%. That is even more crippling than a cap bill would be.

Assemblyman Bergeman: AB233 is what we call a legal proposition. That is a Proposition 6 with a constitutional provisions that we cannot change taken out and Proposition 6 addresses itself to a 40% reduction in property taxes and that's what AB233 does. That's doing what the people have asked us to do.

Assemblyman Price: Did everyone hear that. AB233 is Proposition 6 by statute rather than by the one that we voted on. If it goes into effect, it would go into effect this year instead of two years from now.

Vicki Demas: Senators and Assemblymen, I want to thank you for taking your time to come and listen to our complaints. My name is Vicki Demas and I'm president of the Mobile Home Owners League. As you can see we have quite a good representation of mobile home owners here today. I have questions on two different bills. One is a Senate bill and one is an Assembly bill. However, before I ask those questions, one of the main things that seems to be in our people's minds is that we went to a tax committee hearing last summer in the Flamingo Educational Building. They were discussing the possibility of changing the way of assessing mobile homes by putting them into a blue book type of assessment. We see no indication in any of these bills that there is anything like that going to go on. We would like to ask if you have heard of any move like this to change the type of assessment. We would strongly strongly suggest that you don't. We have been writing letters to Mr. Nixon, asking that they don't do this. Our seniors cannot stand this type of tax.

Assemblyman Price: I was under the impression that there was some kind of movement, either regulatory or through one of our bills, which, by the way, at least on our side of the house, we have no had any hearings on the mobile home bills yet. They will be - I have got them listed on the one sheet - I believe its following next week. So we haven't gone through those yet.

Vicki Demas: But you have heard any indication that they are going to change the way of assessing us, but putting them onto a blue book.

Assemblyman Price: I had heard that there had been some talk about going to the blue book system, yes I had, but I'm not sure. It's been some time and I really don't recall whether it was discussed in the way of regulatory things or whether it was going to be statutory, which I assume that it would have to be.

Senator Ford: Mr. Chairman, if I'm correct, unless we would pass legislation repealing something we did about 1975, the Department of Taxation is under a directive to proceed in that direction. And that's why we don't have a bill in front of us. I'm not sure. I see two Assembly bills here relating to mobile homes taxation. But I was at that hearing last summer and I do believe that they are moving in that direction unless we tell them to do differently in this session. Since I'm not on the taxation committee, that will alert the taxation committee members that that's something you might want to look at.

Vicki Demas: We would beg the taxation committee to please consider not doing this. It would put a terrible terrible strain on all mobile home people. Of the 55,000 that we have living in mobile homes in Clark County, 70% of them are on fixed incomes. They could not afford to pay the tax if they put them on this type of an assessment.

Assemblyman Price: In other words, the bottom line of what you are saying is that you think that the mobile homes today are not depreciating as much as they used to, so therefore, the taxes would be higher.

Vicki Demas: The people couldn't pay it. I think you should be knowledgeable of that fact. In your district, you have many many fixed income people in those small parks, and I frankly don't know what they would do. They would end up paying the higher tax.

Senator Ashworth: I believe we did have some testimony on this in the taxation committee on a collateral matter. The understanding I

had Vicki, was that, and I think it was Mr. Nixon that spoke on this, was that the compilation of a blue book for mobile homes was almost out of the question. That in order to get the information, they had no sources where they could go to and I think they saw some real problems in this. But as Senator Ford has said, maybe this has been back-dated by something that was done in 1975 and if it is, it is something that we should be aware of and go from there. But I do remember that discussion.

Assemblyman Price: I'll make a note and we'll get into Monday when we get back.

Vicki Demas: Alright, if you would look into it, we would appreciate it. On Assembly Bill 211, we have a couple of questions. This bill provides that when a mobile home is set on land owned by a mobile home owner and the running gears are removed, it shall be considered real property. This would affect the taxation. Our question is. Which would be higher. Real property tax or mobile home tax.

Assemblyman Price: I was under the impression they are at the same rate right now. Since we haven't had hearings, I'm not exactly sure what the effect of transferring this to or changing them over to real property will be.

Senator Ashworth: Shouldn't have any effect at all. It would be at the same rate, just like a home. You build a home, not a mobile home, on a piece of real property, the rate does not change. It would be basically when you take the wheels off and axles off and the tax to the real property would actually be the same rate

Assemblyman Bergeman: I think if you were to make a mobile home real property, you would come under the same assessment procedures as a home would at that time. Rather than being on a depreciation schedule, you would probably be on an appreciation schedule on today's market.

Vicki Demas: Right, so possibly you would have a higher tax then.

Assemblyman Craddock: I think basically what would happen it would depend upon the age, as they get older the property taxes would go up, but at the beginning they would be way higher on the mobile home basis.

Vicki Demas: But then they would go down.

Assemblyman Craddock: No if they were on real property assessment standards, it would probably be higher in later years because they do depreciate out now over a period of like 12 or 20 years.

Vicki Demas: Would the same sales tax still apply on the real property and the mobile home.

Assemblyman Price: I think that's something that would have to be addressed.

Vicki Demas: Yes, I have a lady who also has a problem to show you on this. The taxes that she actually paid in buying her own lot and buying her home home. You wouldn't believe what this lady paid in taxes. It's really tremendous. Would the same inspection regulations apply to the setup of a mobile home as it does to a home. You see, there is no provision in here that buy putting a mobile home on a lot and there's also another bill that you have that another lady will speak on. There is no provisions in these bills that that mobile home must be inspected.

Assemblyman Price: The Department of HEW on a Federal level is now setting all the standards for that and I find some problems with that myself. And I think that's the kind of things we will have to learn as we go in. My guess is that they would still be requiring the inspections which would come through the facilities of the State and so forth, but I still think it would be through the Department of Commerce, but I believe that those regulations would still be there myself.

Vicki Demas: Well, it doesn't state so in the bill itself and that was on question because by taking a mobile home and putting it out on private property somewhere, if you don't have it inspected - in other words, this bill or the other one that the other lady is going to talk about, I believe it's 232, there is no specification as to how it must be put in there, how it must look or anything.

Assemblyman Price: I think that that would be covered in another part of the statute, to be honest with you. In most cases, the bills only speak to the immediate area of the statute that they are attempting to change, but I feel quite sure that the regulations imposed on us by the Federal government, which would be handled through another portion.

Vicki Demas: Well, your HEW regulations apply more or less to the inside of the home. I'm talking about how they are connected.

Assemblyman Price: They go to the outside on electrical hookups, plumbing and so forth.

Vicki Demas: How they are hooked up and whether they are tied down and etcetera; whether they have skirting; how are they going to look. They must look presentable or we are back to the same old situation we used to have where we had them sitting all over the place and they looked dumpy. We don't want that. We feel that your SB204 - we have studied the bill very very closely - it is near, as we could understand it. It seems to be a very very good solution to a lot of problems. On the rebate which you spoke of awhile ago. We're not too smart because we are just housewives, but we like to understand, how would you apply for that rebate if you are a renter. Say that I rent a lot in a mobile home park.

Assemblyman Price: You would apply through the Assessor's office. In the renter's rebate, it would be directly through the State, through the department of taxation and in the case of the home assessments it would be through the County Assessor. At our initial hearings - well, we really didn't have hearings, but we did get some information, and one of the questions that was raised was how expensive it would be to actually administer the total program. I think it was \$138,000 a year for Clark County. I think that's a ballpark figure. And on a State-wide, I think we were taking a guess between counties and the State of upwards to three quarters of a million dollars, which may or may not be too high, depending on how much people are saving. But it does sound like a lot of money.

Vicki Demas: Your other parts of 204 which do deal with sales tax. Any thing that's going to help the older people, the seniors in this State, of which we have a great amount living in mobile homes. I would like to point out one thing to you about seniors. They are a built in population. They spend their money here. They pay their taxes here. They don't take anybody's job. I think we had better take care of them because we may need them some day. We may need them desperately some day.

Assemblyman Price: Today.

Vicki Demas: So anything that pertains to seniors, that's going to help them, if any Senator or Assemblyman needs help on these bills, we will give the help because they're in a desperate situation. Many of them. Thank you very much.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you, Vicki.

(Applause)

Ann McMillan: My name is Ann McMillan and I reside at 5353 Sawyer Avenue. I would like to ask you if AB233 is identical to Proposition 6, as it was passed as far as reducing to the 1975 assessment.

Assemblyman Price: There were a number of areas in Proposition 6 that our legal counsel in Carson City, which is our equivalent to the Attorney General felt would not stand the constitutional test - the United States Constitution. So the people who requested this bill had talked quite a long time with them and had gone over this and they thought about requesting a bill that would be as identical as possible including what was deemed to be unconstitutional. In their final analysis they decided they would rather have a bill that they felt would stand the constitutional test

all the way up to the Supreme Court and have it as close as possible to Proposition 6. And if that, in fact, would be the package we came out with, 233, and we had included with the total tax reform, not only the property tax, but the removal of sales tax on food and additional benefits for senior citizens, veterans or whatever, that it would be of greater impact to the people than Proposition 6, so they elected to go with what we call the constitutionally proper version of this

Ann McMillan: Well, 233 doesn't include the sales tax thought. That's a separate bill, is it not.

Assemblyman Price: Once we get ready to move with the package, they will all come together.

Ann McMillan: Does 233 take the taxes back to the 1975 . . .

Assemblyman Price: No, it does not.

Ann McMillan: None of the tax bills take the taxes back to the 1975 level. Am I correct?

Assemblyman Price: Right. Would you like to know why.

Ann McMillan: Yes.

Assemblyman Price: If you had picked it up when Senator Raggio was talking. This was a primary difference, by the way, between our Question 6 and Proposition 13 in California. The very first lady who talked indicated that she had friends who have not had their homes assessed for 10 years.

Ann McMillan: Well, she's incorrect.

Assemblyman Price: Let me finish because I would like the people to understand this. There are some people in the State that for some reason for another, their homes have not been reassessed for 13, and it would appear, even 15 years. Now, that means you are sitting here in a home, let's say you were assessed in 1975 and it was up to the full assessment value and you paid taxes based on 1975. Okay, now Proposition 6 says that we will roll back to '75 and whatever your taxes were then, that's where you are going to start from. Well, if your next door neighbor or the person actually across the street, which might be in a different tax district - of they were living in an identical home but they had not been assessed since 1965, then that would mean that you would have two homes, identical, and this person would be way back, like the lady said, she bought her home for \$12,000 or \$13,000,, there are no provisions in Question 6 for bringing the assessments up to 1975 and starting. That's one of the real problems because our attorney tells us that the United States Constitution provides that people are supposed to be generally treated in the same manner, so, therefore, if you have two homes setting next to each other, one of them should not be paying \$800 a year taxes and one of them paying \$200 a year taxes. You could have them both at \$200. You could have them both at \$800. You could have them both exempt. Now there are some states that you pay no taxes at all on your home. Mostly in states where they have sufficient income from other methods, for example, state income tax and those types of things. But that was one of the particular areas that we're told is unconstitutional and that's why that was left out of our Question 6.

Ann McMillan: Well, may I say I have lived in my home for 17 years and my house has been reappraised every 5 years. I have been reappraised 3 times and I live in Clark County. I think that's pretty general. But my statement is that "people seem to be buying their homes now as a resale". I know people that buy their homes and live in them, 6 months and a year, and expect to sell them. I don't think that's fair for people who do live in their homes on a permanent basis. And they are not moving out of town, they are just moving to another section of town. And, I don't think homes should be appraised as a marketable item because for the majority of people they are not. Unless something comes up, it something people stay in for a certain amount of years.

Assemblyman Price: I hope you will believe me when I tell you that's one of the things that we are really looking at.

Ann McMillan: And that really hurts. I'm a widow and we're older people and we live on fixed incomes and it makes it very difficult when our homes are reappraised as though they are going to be some saleable when we're not selling them. And that's why limiting the assessment to a certain situation. Now, I live in a tax district that is not up to the \$5 valuation yet, so lowering the tax ratio does not help me at all and there are quite a few areas in Clark County that have that situation and that's why I was asking about going back to the 1975 assessments.

Senator Sloan: Have you looked at the Senate Bill 204 which attempts to give the primary relief to people who live in a home. Almost all of the figures we have here, and the people who have been talking, are talking about the problem of the home owner, of the mobile home owner. And if you look at the results of Question 6, if implemented, 60% of the dollar relief would go to large commercial establishments and businesses. So when we are talking about these problems, the dollar relief is going to go to the MGM, to Valley Bank, to the Power Company. The purpose of 204 is to give a small across the board relief to everyone and then to focus in primarily on the home owner, on the renter and the mobile home person. Have you looked at that bill. Do you have any comments on that approach.

Ann McMillan: No, I haven't read that bill, but what I am saying is are you going to give any benefit to the people that live in the home over a period of time. These people that buy their homes every three years and move, they are looking at it as a resale, as an investment value. The majority of people don't and I don't think it's fair that they have to pay along with everybody else.

Senator Sloan: Of course, the constitution, as both Senator Raggio explained and Chairman Price explained.

Ann McMillan: I realize that it would be to be a constitutional amendment. How about the personal property tax. Do you feel that's going to go through.

Assemblyman Price: My colleagues can jump all over me if I'm wrong, but my general feeling is that I think personal property will receive extensive relief this year.

Senator Ford: Well, I could just indicate that one of the bills, SB50, has been heard in the Senate and there was extensive testimony in support of it by the County Assessor's, who recognize that it's totally impossible to administer equitably and there is a general feeling, I think, throughout both houses, that whichever of the basic tax packages, whether it's 204 or Question 6, or whatever, that the exemption of the personal property will be an add on. That's not listed right now in the package, but it is expected to be an add on, and it's something that can be passed this session with immediately relief.

Ann McMillan: And how do you feel about the sales tax on food. Do you feel that something will be done this year on it, or do we have to wait two years for the constitutional amendment.

Assemblyman Price: No. I'll take the chance again and say the sales tax on food is going to come off. It will be on the ballot this year so that it could become effective in July. The question we are having in the Assembly side right now, is defining down how much and exactly what items will come off. Meat and potatoes, or all food items.

Ann McMillan: All food items, the way it is in California.

Assemblyman Price: We have heard about some of the problems they have had over there. That's one of the reason that we're studying because we understand they had some tremendous problems in California. If you bought a sandwich at the 7-Eleven store and it was cold, you didn't pay tax. But if you put it in the radar range, you had to pay tax. We are trying to deal with those types of things right now.

Ann McMillan: And may I suggest that in thinking about the budget for taxation, there are some services that not everybody uses. Now I use the library and I like the library, but I wouldn't object to paying a small charge for my cost to help them along with their budget. And I think that in a lot of ways, a lot of general services that we expect out of our taxes, not everybody uses and that a small fee wouldn't be objectionable

to a lot of people. That way they would have their own choice, and they don't feel that all of their money would be put into something that they would never use. The same way I am sure that older people feel about the school district. My children are all grown and if they don't go there why should I be supporting it. Now, that's rather difficult to do, but some of the select services, I think a nominal fee would not be objectionable to a lot of people. And that way they wouldn't feel that it's all being supported by a budget and it's not a self-working entity, which I think a lot of things should be. The hotels at one time expected all the gambling to take care of everything. Now each department has to show that they are making it and I think government could be the same way with a little help from the individual. Thank you.

(Applause)

Earl Smith: My name is Earl Smith and I live at 5915 Willard. I have been fighting this tax problem for a couple of years. The gentleman over there made a statement that to be charitably, is untrue. He says that all properties are assessed equally. This isn't so and I can prove it because I fought this Equalization Board and it's no use going there because you can't get nothing out of them. But I have got information that the MGM hotel was built at a cost of \$105 million. There tax value is - there real estate value, I should say cause there's a difference - \$101 million which is \$4 million less than what it cost to build it. They have their's on the highest priced property in town, in the whole State in fact. I live in a ghetto way down where the property is tremendously low. My taxes went almost 4 times what it cost to build the house. On this deal of being taxed every 5 years, the law states every 5 years or more. So I have been taxed - almost every year my taxes has went up, and it's probably because I fight them.

(Laughter)

Earl Smith: And this is a fact, whether people believe it or not. So I just want to let you know that the only way we are going to get any relief is by passing laws - you people passing laws - which limits this Tax Assessor's office because they are not an honest group of people. Whether people believe this or not.

(Applause)

Earl Smith: Now the reason I say this is because I went before the Tax Equalization Board. I went down to the Tax Assessor's office and I asked them for all the information I could get on how and why my property was taxed. They gave me a figure of \$19 a square foot. It figures roughly \$19 a square foot. So when I went before the Tax Assessor's office I got shot down because the tax assessor's man said it was \$12 a square foot. Okay. Then he come up with a deal that said, there is improvements. Do you know, the floor in your house is an improvement, which is taxed extra. The roof in your house is an improvement which is taxed extra. The insulation which the government gives you a relief on, is taxed extra. Every plumbing facility in your house is taxed extra. These are all improvements. And you buy a house and it's all there. How can it be an improvement. All right, that shows that this is not an honest system. And I asked how come you come by these. Well they come by it by a book, and you can't argue with a book. So they say this is the way it is. You say it's not right. The book says it's right and the book comes from the legislation - the legislation says the law is this and this and this. There is not spirit in the law. It's all letter of the law. And it's like these people have been saying. You live in a house and you build a house or you live in the house for 20 years, and you find out you can't live in it anymore because according to this book, they wrote you out to where you cannot live in it no longer. And this I don't believe is right. I think this is what we have to look into. Let's find some laws that will curb these assessors, so they will have to give the people the benefit of a doubt. They say we'll come down and look at your house. Don't believe them though. They won't. Anything they tell you you have got to take with a grain of salt because I have found out it is of no value. This Equalization Board is the biggest laugh that ever came out in the world. When I went before it, they was 23 people came before it. There was not a one of them got a relief and some of them had good reasons. But the law stated that they could not get a relief given or not because of the Assessor's office and so on, they couldn't. I would like to make a proposal now. I would like to set on that Equalization Board. I mentioned

it to two or three of the people. The Tax Assessor don't want me on it. But I would like to set on that Equalization Board. They say they donate their time. I'll donate my time. I make \$100 a day and I'll donate my time to set on it. I'm as good as a businessman. So that is a proposal that I thought I would drop here. I don't think it will go anywheres, but I figured I would drop it anyway.

(Laughter)

Earl Smith: Now, on some of these . . .

Assemblyman Price: I wish you wouldn't be spreading our pay rate around. This is one of my fellow electricians.

(Laughter)

Earl Smith: I think the only way we are going to get any relief - these things sound good, but once they get in the Tax Assessor's office they are going to twist them so you ain't gonna get nothing out of them. That's all there is to it. There are other things on here that I notice them talking about - bringing up this deal on State income tax, but it keeps saying that it's non-constitutional. The way I figure, anybody that goes and passes a income tax law in this State should be like in that old show of Jessie James. That lawyer said, they should be taken out and shot like a bunch of dirty dogs.

(Applause)

Earl Smith: There's another thing I don't understand. On a lot of these bills, it states on here something about the affect of state and industrial insurance. There's a little piece down there all the time at the bottom. Now what does that mean.

Assemblyman Price: Well, Earl, to explain that, we are required and its a very good thing to do to, that on various bills, and I think we started this in 1975 as far as local government, I'm not too sure, that if a bill is going to be an expense to the state or the government, for example, they have to hire staff, or they have to do something, or they have to give money out or if it's an expense thing, it has to be so noted on there. Many of the bills then have to go before Ways and Means if it takes an appropriation or that sort of thing. But it seems that in the past, and I don't think we have been guilty of this, that the State Legislature would pass legislation that had tremendous impact on the local governments and then they wouldn't provide for it. And, seriously that is the reason for it. By the way, I have a whole packet of staff that I finally got together Friday for you and will be forwarding next week concerning the Board of Equalization, how they are selected, who they are and what the history has been through here, and we'll see if we can get you on there.

Earl Smith: I would like to be on it, because the last time I was on the County Equalization Board, all I could do when I left was shake my fist at 'em and say you're a bunch of crooks.

(Laughter)

Earl Smith: Now, I feel I'm a fairly honest man and I would like to have at least one honest man on that board.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Did you leave your address for the Tax Assessor.

Earl Smith: He knows me because I have been down there and everybody in the office knows that I call him a crook too. But the thing is, now you are talking about saving money, this library needs money and so on. I'll tell you a place where you can save more money than you can shake a stick at and that's on the lighting of the communities. In this town, I can go down a dozen streets, there will be miles and miles of street lights with no house on any side of the street.

(Applause)

Earl Smith: You will find street lights that are so close together that you can turn off your lights and you can drive as well as if it

was in the middle of the day. This to me is a very big waste. You start figuring it out and they will cost you about \$1000 or \$2000 to set up a pole and it will probably cost you another \$25 a month to run the lights. And you start figuring the money that would be saved on here and it's ridiculous. People will say, well you shut the street lights off, our crime rate will go up. You pass a law that states that a person has a right to protect his property in any way he sees fit and the crime rate will go down.

(Applause)

Earl Smith: So, therefore, you don't need all this protection. And that will save us money in both fields. This here is enough to think about. That's about all I have to say.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much, Earl.

Assemblyman Craddock: I am going to ask Sandy to give you a copy of both 141. I'll ask you to read page 6 and 7 and report back to us on that later.

Ruth Goldston: Hello, I'm Ruth Goldston and I live at 3568 Newman. That's in Heritage Square. I moved to this condominium in July of '76 and the following year I believe the reassessment took place. I am a widow. I am self-supporting and I'm on a fixed income and the minute the assessment came along my mortgage payments went way up. I do not have an income that goes up with the economy. It's been stuck for a long time where it is and I have had to rebudget and rebudget and do the old belt tightening trick which seems to be true in some of our cases, but not true in others where they can demand or go out on strike and get more money because the economy has improved so much.. We can't do these things. We are stuck with what we have. Now, I moved here and I bought the least expensive smallest condominium in this complex. I intended to live here. I didn't buy it as an investment. I didn't buy it as something to sell next year to make money on. I am not interested in what it is worth at resale, because all I want to know is that I can live there. There is what I came in for. Now, there has been some talk of re-evaluating property as it changes hands. If it sells for more, then the tax goes up. And to me, that sounds very sensible because there are a lot of people, as this lady spoke of, who moved out in the country and she lives there and she's lived there all these years. Around her the developers have done big business. I ran into that in Arizona several years ago when we were living in the desert and around us they were building. That had no effect on us. We were still desert rats and all this valuable property around us had no effect. And, at that time I said, when they told us what the fence line property was worth, that there were also current this year model Cadillacs and Mercedes in those garages and I was still driving a 1939 pickup truck. And I didn't have to pay my license on my truck at the same rate that they had to pay for this years' Cadillac. Therefore, I think it isn't too impossible to picture the fact that across the street a house might be taxed a lot less than the one that was just sold this year. The person who bought this year, bought at the current prices and knows what the effect will be on his budget. The rest of us who are not in a position to improve our income are really stuck. When I got that assessment increase, I went to the Assessor's Office or some place and I was told that I could ask for relief as a senior citizen, as widow, as a property owner. And because my income was more than what the maximum income requires for relief, I was turned down. Now, my income isn't that much more and you can be in desperate straits even if you have more money coming in than somebody else, because, on my income I don't get good stamps, I don't get free legal services. There are an awful lot of things I do not get, but I do pay top tax every year on my income. So if there was a chance of that limited top income bracket being raised, I think that right there would be a big help for many of us who are stuck. I thank you for your attention.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you. I would like to ask that everyone did as this lady, Ruth, did. Keep it as short as possible so everyone will have an opportunity to talk. Thank you.

Wayne Davis: Honorable ladies and gentlemen, my name is Wayne Davis. I've lived in Las Vegas since 1954. I reside at 1312 Sattes Street, Las Vegas. I came here to try to make you more aware of the actions of the County Tax Assessor's office, working hand in glove with the County Board of Equalization, in raising our taxes 100%, by raising our assessment 100%. Now, this is contrary, among other things, to the national goal of President Carter to hold prices and wages to 8%. The taxes we pay is the price of government. We have to have government. It has to be paid for. Taxes is the price. That's a price also. Now, the Tax Assessor and the County Board of Equalization will not believe because of their prior interest in bureaucracy and tax gouging. That's what Proposition 6 is about. One of the really important things that this session of the legislature could do for the people of Nevada is to make it impossible for these non-elected officials to raise taxes contrary to the spirit and the will of the people - contrary to our President's goal - to everybody to war on this inflation. The intent of the legislature and the constitution makers that the Tax Assessor is relying upon to gouge 100% out of us. Any reasonable man would have a reasonable right to believe, did not intend anybody to oppose the will of the people expressed at the poles, or new laws that are being considered. Our fail to recognize inflation and jepordizing our nation's welfare and possibly even existence and refuse to pay the Federal call against it voluntarily limiting price increases to 8%. We can't cause the tax people to use common sense or judgment alone. You are going to have to find some way to curb them or any law that you make in Carson City will be misapplied here to where they still gouge the pocketbooks. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much, Wayne.

Jan Sivic: My name is Jan Sivic. I represent the Mobile Home Owners Leage of the Silver State. We have heard a lot of talk about taxes here. I am not going to go into bills, because in my opinion, you have got exactly 25 minutes and I am sure there are other people who want to be heard. So I'm not going to go into bills, but I am going to tell you gentlemen one thing. The mobile home people have got a pretty rough thing going and I'm going to tell you the reason why. In three years time the mobile home people's rent have gone up 92.2%, is the rents that have gone up on us. If we let this thing go another three years, with all of the things that we are being hit with, you are looking at us possibly, in raising our appraised assessments, on the taxes and changing the system, you know and all this sort of thing. Gentlemen, I am only going to ask one thing of you and that is when you meet a bill and when you get to a bill that says it's going to cost the mobile home people anything more, my god, don't vote on it. Cut it back down. Keep us as low as you can, because, gentlemen, I will tell you one thing. We have got people right now who have been paying \$50, \$40 or \$50 a month rent. If you give us another thing of what we are in right now, we are going to be up to \$149 for that man who is maybe getting a \$225 income. That's going to be his rent. Now, we can't afford it. These people plain can't make it. One thing also I want to warn you about these bills I have been reading. And that is look for the inside of these bills. When it says it's going to give us some money and it's going to cut down for us on tax assessment and this sort of thing, let's get under the cover and take a darn good look at it. One of these things that has got me pretty unhappy here is that you have got in this particular bill which is 232, you have got the request that a mobile home dealer can sell real estate. Now I ask you. We have got a request that a real estate man can sell a mobile home. We have got another bill that a motor vehicle man who sells used cars can sell a mobile home because he's got a vehicle license. These are the things that you are slipping in on us. In order to give us a small piece of bread, what we are looking at is we are loosing at a lot of loss in many of these bills. We get all these bills in this State League. We read them over. If it means getting some of the cost cut down for ourselves, that we are going to lose so much in the middle of the bill. But what we are asking from you is, take this bill, as you work with us, and say, is this going to cost these mobile home people more money to live on that what we've got right now. Because you have got an awful lot of stuff that is coming in here and to sit and take up your time and talk about each one of these individually, I don't want to do that because there is other people out here that have a right to speak. But remember something. The mobile home people in the last year have asked local governments to give us a helping hand and we haven't got one

speck of help from them. They told us to go to the State. Now we have gone to the State with the budget bills in hopes that we would get that. Gentlemen, if you don't help us, I hope God does, because we are not getting any help any where. Help us with these bills. Save us what you can. Thank you.

(Applause)

Evelyn Cook: Good afternoon. My name is Evelyn Cook and I live at 3552 Edison Avenue in the County. I am past president and charter members of the Friends of Southern Nevada Library incorporated and I would like to read a statement on behalf of the Friends. The Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries was chartered in Nevada four years ago by a group of citizens who believe that libraries are necessary to the cultural and intellectual growth of the community. The Friends are concerned that the passage of Assembly Bill 233 would seriously damage library services in Southern Nevada. If it is passed, the Library District's 1979-80 proposed budget will be cut by more than one-third. This will mean that the Sunrise and West Las Vegas libraries may be closed. Bookmobile service will be stopped. The smaller County branches in Searchlight and Bunkerville, Mesquite and elsewhere will be closed. No new books will be purchased. Many magazines and other periodicals will be discontinued. The Flamingo and Decatur branches will operate on an 8 hour a day, 5 days a week. The Las Vegas City library will operate on a 3 day week. Programming will be eliminated. This includes movies, exhibits, musical programs, support for the public radio station and programs funded by grants. We urge our legislators to consider alternatives to AB233. Thank you.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much, Evelyn.

Unidentified Lady: This is referring to people who own their own property, go out and buy a new mobile home, if you are going to move into a new estates. Alright, we are just going to speak in round figures. You paid \$30,000 for this new mobile home. Then you pay a sales tax of over \$1000. Then you move in and you pay your property tax, which is impounded. Say for instance, \$20 a month. Okay, at the end of the year you have paid \$240 in property tax alone. Then you have paid this sales tax. Then, if you move in in April, I did a little research, from April to July, it is \$174. That's personal property which they consider a mobile home. Then from July to July you pay \$498 more on this personal property. You come up with \$1,927 in taxes in 15 months. Thank you.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you.

Blanche Zooger: Mr, Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Blanche Zooger. I live at 1501 Birch Street in Las Vegas. I speak as a tax paying citizen deeply concerned with library services in Nevada. I have worked as publicity chairman for the Governor's Conference on Libraries and Information needs which took place in November in Las Vegas. I was Community Dialogue Southern Nevada Coordinator reaching 38 organizations in Las Vegas speaking to them about what their library needs were and their services. We reach 2400 people in this community. The thrust of the conference concerned getting input from our citizens, not librarians, about their library services and needs. One hundred and three delegates representing Nevada state-wide, developed 38 resolutions concerning library services. These resolutions, in every case, were in support of improving library services state-wide. It would be tragic if we reduced funding to libraries at this time when current library expenditures are at this point in time, 50% below national standards. Thank you.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much, Blanche.

Jim Deakin: Thank for coming down to Las Vegas today. We appreciate it very much. I want to thank Jean Ford especially. I'll tell you why a little later on. My name is Jim Deakin. I live at 1817 East St. Louis. I am a member of the Grey Panthers, and Volunteers in Action, AARP, Senior Companion Volunteers, Golden Age Club, Griffith Methodist Church, Senior Citizens Center and I am interested in anything that has to do with the

seniors. But today, I am mostly interested in generics in regard to drugs. Yesterday I went down to Paradise Park, ironically, to talk about drugs. However, they were the kind that you buy in the drugstore, not the kind that is usually associated with Paradise Park. From what Jean sent me in her letter of reply, AB98 and SB137, are now in the Senate. And, from what I hear, they are both good bills and when Mike Fitzpaterick called on the phone the other day, he said that he was adding another tooth in the bill that might make it a little stronger. I know that this didn't pass in 1975 or 1977, but I sure hope it passes in 1979. There is so much difference between the generic and the standard brand drugs that, in many cases, it's almost laughable. I myself have been buying expensive drugs through a local drugstore and recently started to buy them through AARP. The difference in my most expensive drug is eight dollars and some odd cents rather than what I get here at a discount at the local drug company. What I am hoping is that there will be some legislation that will make it mandatory for the physician to prescribe the generic drug, if possible of course, and if it's available to the patient so as to help him in his drug bill. And, it's not only for the senior citizens, but as you know, the younger persons today, in many cases have two jobs. The young families that are bringing up children and they put their child in a day care center and they have got two jobs to make things meet. It is not only for the older ones, but for the young ones to that are bringing up kids that get sick. All of us have these experiences. So I thank you for this and I want to thank Keith Ashworth for answering my letter, Howard Cannon, Jean Ford, Mike Fitzpaterick, Paul Laxalt, Joe Neal and we were going to send Bill Kissam up for us to lobby the other day, but it snowed and he couldn't make it. But I see that he was here this morning and I wish to thank everyone of the uh, very much indeed.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much. Senator Neal asked me to express his regrets because he had to go to Washington today on some business. I am not sure what it was. He told me, but I've forgotten.

Assemblyman Bergeman: Senator Faiss, also.

Tom Mulroy: Good morning. My name is Tom Mulroy, 3800 South Decatur, Space 202. I have two things and I'll try to be brief on them. Referring to Assembly Bill 2 and Assembly Bill 33, both of which propose to amend the sales and use tax law and call for elections. Assembly Bill 2 calls for the subject to be on the ballot as a special election on June 5, 1979 and Assembly Bill 33, which also amends the use tax, on the General Election Ballot of November 4, 1980.

Assemblyman Price: We have actually already covered that and I think there was a general consensus if we move in that direction, they will both come out at the same time.

Tom Mulroy: Well, that was the one point that I thought should be made to save money and to accommodate the voters. Now the other thing is that regarding the Assembly Bill 2, it has to do with removal, in particular, removal of or adding a tax on eye glasses. It is very similar to AB440, which was in the paper. And, AB440, as it's noted under the Legislative summary, says Taxation Committee - add sales tax to eye glasses and related items sold by optometrists and physicians. At the present time, it is my understanding that if a person goes to an ophthalmologist and has a prescription and the person who submits the prescription also makes the glasses, that there's no sales tax. But if they take the prescription and go to their neighborhood optometrist, then there is a sales tax, and by this proposal to add the sales tax, is to add it to where the physician or the ophthalmologist also writes the prescription and makes the glasses and this is to accomplish equity. Well, I think it might be better to accomplish equity if they were exempt for the ophthalmologist, it would be exempt for the optometrist. I'm not an optometrist, but for the people who have to get eyeglasses, and again, it most of the senior citizens, not all, but quite a large number, and so those are the only two things that I wanted to bring before the committee. Thank you.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you very much, Tom. By the way, Tom just brought up something that dawned on me that may or could actually be misleading. In fact, it might even be why John Podgurski got mad and left. It didn't dawn on me until just now. Many of these bills indicate that they were introduced by the Committee on Taxation. What we have done this year on the Assembly side and in some cases on the Senate side is we ask everyone who had a tax bill to bring it to the Committee

and let the Committee introduce it. We didn't ask whether they were good, bad or indifferent bills. Whatever they brought to us, we went ahead and run them into Committee and then we would take a look at them. The fact that they were introduced by the Committee on Taxation has absolutely no bearing on whether the Committee in fact, agrees, disagrees, thinks it's a good bill, bad bill or anything else. It's a procedure that we adopted more or less to try and take some of the politics out of the tax package and whatever bills come out, once we agree on what relief and where the relief should be, the bills will come out as Taxation Committee bills to so, just because you see something you don't like, that says Committee on Taxation, it does not indicate that that was some bill they were pushing.

Vernon Duke: Thank you Mr. Price and gentlemen for coming all the way down here. I'm Vernon Duke, 172 Madge Lane, here in Las Vegas. I represent the DAV, the Civil American Veterans from the national department clear down to the state and chapter. What I am trying to understand here is AB3 and AB367 are word for word. It's the same bill except for a BDR number in them.

Assemblyman Price: There was an example, that's on the two veterans bills. Now there was an example of where a bill was introduced - Assemblyman Mann and I think I was even a co-sponsor on that - right at the beginning of the session, introduced that. When the committees on the Assembly side started meeting, at first we had said that maybe only the major tax packages would come out under committee name, we decided at one of our earlier meetings that any bill that we were going to vote out would have to have a Taxation Committee name on it. The only way, therefore, that you could - by law we cannot change the cap of a bill, we have to go back to the bill drafter and have them put a new jacket on an identical bill and then we introduce it as a Taxation Committee bill.

Vernon Duke: These will be combined into one bill.

Assemblyman Price: Yes. So what that is is kind of a general indication that we think that that relief on veterans is in fact, going to come out of committee.

Vernon Duke: I have one more question - two more. No knowing how this bill is written, I was to the understanding that when it was to be written to drop the disability percentage lower, to come under the property taxes, it was also in this same bill, to give a surviving spouse this same benefit as long as they/she lived in that home, because her and her husband paid for it together, it would put a very much indebtedness on her if it was not carried on in her name after he passed on. I know the disabled veterans are the ones that have the highest rate of fatality of all veterans.

Assemblyman Price: I don't think the survivor was in that. I will make a note on that so we can discuss it.

Vernon Duke: I talked to you the other day on whether or not they were going to revise the wording on the license DAV and handicapped license bill, to the general public, which stated that a veteran with a 100% disability, upon clarification and verification of the Veterans Administration, would get their license plates for \$1. We pay \$1 for the application and after we submit the application, we pay full fee, privilege taxes and everything. In other words, the veteran right now - the 100% disabled veteran - is paying \$1 more than anyone else in the State of Nevada for license plates and I don't believe that is the way the original law was supposed to read, but somehow, that's the way it came out of Congress, now the Senate.

Assemblyman Price: I have asked our Research Department to get me some history on what happened through the series of whatever on that.

Greg Millsbaugh: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name is Greg Millsbaugh. I am a resident at 788 Sandra Avenue, Boulder City, Nevada. I have been a resident of the Las Vegas/Clark County area since 1960. I returned to Nevada after I graduated college back East because I could see, having traveled the entire country, that this was the one truly good place to live in the world and it was a place where you could pretty much have control of your own lifestyle with respect, that I think was mutual, between all peoples. I believe that most of the

people that have moved here in the last 15 years, came here for the same reason. And, while many people have raised points about specific bills and done a far better job than I can, I think that the thing that needs to be said today, is a proposal for a complete philosophy of the tax relief package. You have a response now of many bills introduced into your committees, joint between the Assembly and the Senate on Taxation. I think that is primarily because of the response in the legislature because of the citizens approval, overwhelming margin of approval, of Question 6. I believe that if Question 6 had not been in our immediate past political history, that we wouldn't be here today. And I believe the fact that Question 6, even with its glaring deficiencies and even with the gross inequities that we have observed from Proposition 13 in California, that the overwhelming support that there was still for Question 6 in Nevada, is indicative that the people over the entire spectrum, whether they be young families trying to raise children, middle aged families or senior citizens, whether they be a single family resident, apartment dwellers or mobile homes, they all have the same problem. We all need some help. We all need some tax relief. My proposal to you is to look at the errors of California and to provide the maximum tax relief in the dollars that you are effectively taking out of the state treasury and returning to us. Make certain that the maximum amount of dollars that you take out of the state treasury reaches us and does not end up as some siphon, such as Washington D.C. In that regard, I have 5 quick points and I'll try to make them very fast. First, the very first tax relief that you should give us are those items, which by their elimination, do not end up being the elimination of deductible items, so that the money goes to Washington. And in that regard I recommend to you that you reduce or to a nominal fee, individual person's driver's license fees, motor vehicle fees, hunting and fishing license permits and the like. I do not include those driver's license fees which might be for buses or for a business enterprise that would be a business deduction even after, or even as they are now. But on individual citizens driver's licenses, charge them only what they actually cost to process that renewal. If it's a dollar a year, a dollar every five years, fine. Now, that's only, in my own estimation, sirs, less than a million dollar total tax package by itself. But let it be the first million. The second item I suggest to you. Because of the actions of the Federal Congress and effective January 1 this year, all state gasoline sales taxes are no longer deductible to an individual citizen. But economically, it has been proven across this nation that gasoline is the one consumer commodity that has the least price flexibility. If you need to drive from your home to your job, you are going to drive from your home to your job whether the tax is on the gasoline or not. This is true whether you are an individual citizen or if that gasoline is for a produce truck or a school bus or what have you. And in short, if you were to reduce or eliminate the sales tax on gasoline, it would be of benefit to every person and to every person who is a middle man or a business man, that savings is a savings that can be passed on to the consumer. Because, so long as it exists, it is simply an expense that is passed to the consumer. And, therefore, I urge that you investigate carefully the reduction or elimination of the sales tax on gasoline in Nevada. This would respond with the Highway Department coming to you and asking for permission to enter the General Fund. They have already done so. It is already like that your Committee on Transportation will give them that entry and if that is the case, simply allow now and give us the maximum tax relief that we can keep in our own pockets. The second item. Eliminate those taxes which are small, but expensive for you yourselves and the state administration to collect. Specifically, the personal property tax, which, by it's own administration, in order to get a dollar's worth of income for the state General Fund, you have to spend a good twenty or thirty cents maintaining a bureaucracy to go out and collect it. If you simply reduced, effectively you could give us a dollar thirty worth of tax relief for a dollar net that you are taking out of the state treasury because you are eliminating the surplus bureaucracy that we don't have to have on ourselves. And for that recommendation and because this is a tax relief that goes to every citizen, regardless of age, regardless of circumstances, I urge you to eliminate all personal property taxes. I would also urge that you recommend the elimination of personal property taxes on agricultural products because these products merely get these taxes themselves, merely get written into the base price of what we have to pay for our food that is grown here in our own state and there's no reason to do that. The next item. Provide tax exemptions for any kind of a property

improvement that conserves our natural resources. And in this, specifically exempt energy sources for geothermal, solar energy. Eliminate the property tax burden for any acts of water conservation and this would include those agricultural actions that provide for concrete lined ditches, because in our state, water is a vital resource. It is our survival. It is our life blood. And, if a citizen puts money out of his pocket, to save our water for us or to help us get more out of our water, don't penalize him for doing so. I also recommend that you eliminate or provide a tax exemption in complete, for medical prosthetic devices. This would be hearing aids, eye glasses, crutches, wheelchairs and the like - all medical prosthetic devices. The fourth item. I urge that you go to property tax relief for single family residences or for mobile homes or those who are renters by providing you exemption to be applicable, roughly speaking, in my estimate here, based on the numbers that I see you are looking at, by exempting the first \$20,000 of fair market value on all homes that are used as a personal domicile. And, you can easily administer this, by providing the \$20,000 exemption to every home that has a homestead declaration filed upon it. We already have, in law, the position where a home that is a permanent structure or a mobile home, may file for a homestead declaration. It grants a \$20,000 exemption from service of process by indebtedness. This is simply to extend the exemption, the protection also, for taxation purposes. A citizen right now can file such a declaration of homestead with the Recorder's office in the County. All the legal and administrative structure that is needed for this is in existence today. We do not have to spend another dime maintaining a new bureaucracy. Let those people who have already filed a homestead make their declaration for the exemption with the Assessor's office the same as your senior citizens and veteran's exemptions are filed for now. In the future, the mere act of filing a homestead declaration would be a service of providing for the exemption. And again, you have eliminated the need for additional bureaucracy. Lastly, but by now means least, I urge that you seek the immediate elimination of the sales tax on food by whatever means you can for the earliest possible effective date. I believe that only a package that might be because of the fact that our tax base right now is somewhat of a Crow's Nest of many different sources, many different threads that have come together, we do seem we are eliminating in each of the various directions that each of these taxes come in on us will provide the greatest and most equitable tax relief to the entire public overall. Attempting to provide the entire measure of tax relief through a property tax rebate program, for example, would require that your State Department of Taxation hire a substantial number of employees to administrate your rebate program. And, in effect, in order to give us or in order to eliminate a dollar's worth of productive revenue out of the state, you would have to administer another twenty cents of bureaucracy and we would only see eighty cents on the dollar coming back to us. To my mind, that is not what we need you to do. That's the problem we have with Washington. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Assemblyman Price: Thank you, Greg. I would like to point out again, to the audience and to yourself, that when you talk about homestead exemptions, you are again talking about a constitutional amendment which requires 5 years. There is absolutely no way that we can provide a homestead exemption in any less time than 5 years from today. It requires a constitutional amendment. And that's why they are looking at rebate as an alternate. The State Constitution provides, not all states, that we have to charge the same rate on a home, as a business, as a utility and so forth. And, we are looking at homestead exemptions. I have a paper right here on it and that's one of the things that we are balancing.

Greg Millspaugh: My understanding sir, is that we already have exemptions for senior citizens and for veterans.

Senator Ashworth: Those come under the charitable provision of the Constitution and we have been able, through the courts, feel that that would be a charitable purpose; whereas, if you open it up to all individuals as exemptions and not businesses, you don't come under that exemption. That's the problem

Assemblyman Price: It's only fair to say that there are some pretty good constitutional attorneys, who even question how far that the exemptions that we give to the senior citizens and even to the veterans, could be carried right now. But it is done by way of the

"charitable exemption". So, that's the kind of problem that we face and I just want everybody to understand that.

Assemblyman Craddock: Greg, I would just like to make one comment. I appreciate some of your comments, particularly the ones that refer to considering taxes that are not deductible as far as Federal income tax and so on, is concerned. This indicates to me that you are much most astute in what's happening that most people. But I would think that I am somewhat derelict if I didn't point out that we are right now not charging as much for driver's licenses as it costs to process them. So if we in fact do what you suggest there, we would in effect, raise the prices of driver's licenses by about double what they are.

Senator Ashworth: One of the other problems that Senator Sloan pointed out that you run into Greg, from this vantage point, and this is one of the areas that I have some problem with also. For all intents and purposes, we lower the property tax, and of course anybody that itemizes, that's going to mean more dollars going to Uncle Sam, because you don't get that deduction. But I would imagine that the major of the individuals here probably do not file a 1040 tax return which is the normal returning without itemizing. They probably use the standard deduction which has no affect whatsoever.

Assemblyman Price: We'll here from Jan, then we'll wrap it up. Do you want to be the wrap-up, Jan. And, while Jess is walking up, I might mention that there is some people that apparently don't get enough meetings and hearings because I recognize Mayor Gragson who must have been to a million meetings in his life and over on this side we have North Las Vegas Councilwoman Cynthia Baumann who has come in because she doesn't get enough hearings during the week either.

Jess Meyers: We would like to thank you for the consideration of AB53 which concerns the exemption of taxes on experimental and antique aircraft. The people that are building these are being taxed on them five times before the project starts and the people who are restoring them also. You have another bill going through, AB43, which concerns the fuel tax, not collected by the seller, but just more or less eliminated, has no affect on either state of local government. We would like to thank you.

Assemblyman Price: By the way, we have got a another bill coming out that will set up a - hopefully create a state aeronautical chart that will be the state only, rather than a sectional.

Jan MacEachern: I'm Jan MacEachern, 1300 Denver Street, Boulder City. I've seen quite a few of you before. I am speaking only for myself today and not as a representative of any group. Some of you may have seen my name on things that have gone to the legislature. First of all, I want to thank you for coming and the second thing is from what I have read in the papers and seen and heard on TV, I think I will open with this statement. Please, no pride of authorship. We are not looking for a hero or a saviour. This is the time for leaving personalities and egos at home. We all need to be reminded that Nevada, presently, has one of lowest property tax rates in the country. That we residents enjoy the fruits of our gaming and tourist industry. Even our sales tax is among the lowest. How that vast income is distributed to the greatest good for the greatest number, is another matter. I would like to have you consider a few of these thoughts. The ad val tax, property tax, is an important part of local general funds. If that income is cut by legislative action, the legislature must also find means to replace it. Fortunately the state does have the means. It can return to the Counties and Cities a more proportionate share of the gaming taxes those Counties and Cities send to the state or the state can assume more local costs. For instance, when the legislature mandates more judges for our local area, it can also decide salaries, assume the building and maintenance of those courts. If the legislature mandates a decrease in local tax income, whether property or sales, it should then assume the cost of local service, welfare, for instance. I am aware that the increase in property taxes is not because of an increased tax rate, but is the result of the increased value of our properties. However, to us as homeowners, that is a paper value. Unless I sell my home, I enjoy no fruits of that increased value. In spite of the higher

assessed value, I also believe however, that there are very few people here who would sell that home at the present tax assessed price. I know that I wouldn't on mine. I believe many who voted for Question 6, did so as the only opportunity available to protest the whole combined tax cost package. Actually, here in Nevada, our largest bite is Federal taxes, not local taxes. The procedure for reform in Question 6 contains many inequities. You can do much better I am sure. And, as a member of the elders in the community, I appreciate your attention to the plight of some of my peers, but I suggest that our children, the young marrieds are in a similar plight financially. All of us, young and old, suffer the results of inflation. We may need glasses or medication. They may need a bed or chairs or a roof over their head. Where you can help all of us, young and old, is the food that we must all buy to survive. A real help would be to begin the procedure to eliminate the sales tax on food. That is a regressive tax which hits low and fixed incomes the hardest. But again, in considering the sales tax, we must be reminded that one and a half cents of the three cents, has been an important part of local general and school district funds. Perhaps a compromise might be for the state to put its' two cents of the three and a half cents on the ballot for repeal and retain the option to retain the school and city and county relief tax. I am concerned that practically every tax measure that has been introduced says yes on the fiscal note for local governments. And I come back to you to my opening statement, but before I do I want to call your attention - you had asked about putting a cap on local budgets. If you put a cap, according to the formula that I have seen, just very briefly, that is a percentage of the cost of living and a percentage of the inflation rate, that again is going to do the same kind of thing to the small cities and the small areas of the state that the sales tax has done to low incomes. Five percent of a one million dollar budget is a whole lot more to that individual budget than five percent is to a ten million dollar budget, because the small city has to take care of the same services that a large city has to take care of. So when you do it on a cross the board basis that way, I think you must leave it to the locals to decide what kind of budget increases they can afford. We all have to increase our budgets at home. We have to make do. And within our cities and the County, we are going to have to be doing the same thing, and I think you can rest assured, without word from Carson, that the local governments are going to be doing that. So I have come back to my opening thought. Forget who you are. Concentrate on what you are - legislators and together you can enact tax legislation that will result in a resounding defeat of Question 6 in 1980. Thank you.

(Applause)

Assemblyman Price: Thank you, Jan.

Mike Markoff: I'm Mike Markoff, Box 42357, Las Vegas, 89104. I could write you for this, but as long as you are here I'd like to ask for it. Could you give me the amount of money that is needed to run the government and of that alleged amount, what amount is fat. If you could give me some sort of figures, then we could go and see what taxes we need.

Assemblyman Price: I can't give you the numbers, but in all seriousness, that is exactly what your tax committees are trying to determine this year, is just how much it's going to take and we are working in cooperation with the finance committees.

Mike Markoff: Yah, I asked could you send that to me. I could write and get it, but would you send it..

Assemblyman Price: Okay, thank you. I'm not sure they will admit how much fat is in there, but they are trying to cut it out, budget by budget in the finance committee hearing and in the ways and means. I would like to thank everyone for coming out and taking the time to come over hear today and give us your information and we certainly have appreciated it.

Hearing adjourned at 12:45 P.M.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEVADA ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
BY TOM HOOD, CCCTA PRESIDENT

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM TOM HOOD, PRESIDENT OF THE CLARK COUNTY CLASSROOM TEACHERS ASSOCIATION WHICH IS THE EXCLUSIVE BARGAINING AGENT FOR THE 4,100 TEACHERS IN CLARK COUNTY.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNICATE THE ASSOCIATION'S SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 204.

THE CONCEPTS EMBODIED IN SB 204 ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONCERNS VOTERS EXPRESSED IN BALLOT QUESTION 6. THE TAX REFORMS PROPOSED PROVIDE REAL TAX RELIEF FOR ALL OF NEVADA'S VOTERS WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE PROPERTY OWNERS.

THE EXPENSE FOR ADMINISTERING SB 204 HAS BEEN ESTIMATED TO BE \$1,000,000 AT ALL LEVELS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT. SOME PERSONS HAVE BRANDED THIS AS EXCESSIVE. HOWEVER, IT IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR ATTEMPTING TO INSURE THAT EVERY NEVADA VOTER AT LEAST HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF THE SWEEPING TAX REFORMS WHICH WILL BE ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE.

THE APPROACH BEING PROPOSED REGARDING ACROSS THE BOARD REDUCTIONS IN EITHER TAX RATES OR PERCENTAGE OF PROPERTY VALUES UPON WHICH THE TAX IS ASSESSED WILL AFFECT PROPERTY OWNERS ONLY, MANY OF WHOM ARE LARGE CORPORATIONS, LANDLORDS, AND BUSINESS OWNERS. THE EXPERIENCE IN CALIFORNIA DEMONSTRATES THAT THE LATTER GROUPS WILL NOT PASS THEIR TAX SAVINGS ON TO THEIR CONSUMERS. THE AFFECT IS TO GUARANTEE THAT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF VOTERS WHO INDIRECTLY PAY PROPERTY TAXES WILL RECEIVE VIRTUALLY NO BENEFIT FROM THE MAJOR TAX REFORMS.

SB 204 ALSO GUARANTEES A STABLE TAX BASE FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHOOLS. SCHOOL DISTRICTS ARE VIRTUALLY PROHIBITED FROM LEVYING TAXES OR FEES BASED ON ITS OWN AUTHORITY TO SUPPLEMENT OPERATING REVENUE. CITY AND COUNTIES, FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE THE ABILITY TO LEVY A VARIETY OF TAXES AND FEES TO SUPPORT THEIR OPERATIONS.

ONE OF THE MAJOR ASPECTS OF QUESTION 6 WHICH IS NOT INCLUDED IN SB 204 IS AN "AD VALOREM CAP". IT WOULD SEEM THAT SUCH A PROVISION MIGHT BE AMENDED INTO THIS BILL OR SUBMITTED AS A SEPARATE BILL.

THE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION URGES YOUR QUICK, POSITIVE ACTION ON SB 204 IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR TIMELY HANDLING OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION WHICH HAVE BEEN DEBATED SINCE THIS BILL AND ITS PREDECESSOR (SB 54) CAME INTO BEING.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS BILL IS RESPONSIVE TO THE VOTERS CONCERNS EMBODIED IN QUESTION 6 AND WILL STILL ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MAINTAIN AT LEAST PART OF ITS STABLE TAX BASE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO TRY TO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THIS MATTER.

COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS
P. O. Box 3285
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030

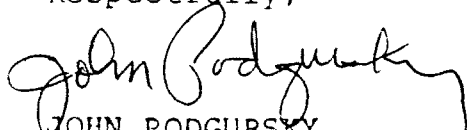
NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE

The above-named organization 813 members request YOU to support Bill A. B. 147, to open the meetings in the precinct for public hearings. This would be accepting the blind and the handicapped of that precinct. Also, if the precinct is dark, NO DELEGATES be appointed by the Clark County Democratic Chairperson. This is a stacked deck, closed to ALL handicapped people. Also that the chairperson CANNOT appoint an aide of her or his choosing, if the blind have their own Aid. We urge YOU to support this bill.

We also urge YOU to support A.B. 358, the constable be an elected office. This is a tradition and a historical office and we want it to stay that way.

I have been directed by ALL members to write this letter to YOU. It is easier to write one letter and make copies with my personal signature.

Respectfully,


JOHN PODGURSKY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR