

1 way or another; but there is a bill in the City Council to  
2 provide that the Historic Preservation Commission be  
3 expanded and that its duties be enlarged to permit tax  
4 exemption, complete or partial, to be granted to any  
5 building or structure designated by the Commission as  
6 worthy of protection, if in the judgment of this Commission  
7 they find that it is uneconomic for the owner to retain  
8 the monument or structure in place in its proper condition  
9 without such exemption or abatement.

10 Now, there is a public policy involved, but it  
11 is another example of shifting the burden. None of these  
12 tax exemptions reduce the cost of government. They result  
13 in a shift in the cost of government and the thing that  
14 I wanted to comment on here is the net result. When the  
15 Constitution, when the Declaration of Rights, Article 51,  
16 stated that taxes ought to be uniform, they were dealing  
17 with the question of property tax which was the main stay  
18 of all State and local government at that time.

19 We now have many renters, many people who do not  
20 own property. Many of these people are in poorer financial  
21 condition than the ones who own property. This is certainly