

March 18, 1975

SENATOR DICKINSON: Senator DeCamp, you're using my time also. I'm not going to use much more. I just want to express a concern about the fact that we are getting mail, as Senators, urging us to adopt an amendment that we have had no opportunity to know about. My concern is, I guess, that agencies of state government putting this kind of propaganda, when we should be the first ones to know about bills and amendments that are in this body, it seems to me.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Mr. President, fellow members, very briefly I think we ought to have someone bring the figures and the accounting so that we will know, is there money available. I'm most anxious that we have money available for the volunteer ambulance service people. These people work real hard and have had some good programs of education that they have had in the past. We need them because so many different, small, out-state volunteer ambulance service people have not had the education. This fund would be used for that education purpose. My understanding that the Federal government has not given the money for this. I think we should have that answer before we vote on this amendment, or on the bill. I would ask that LB 287 be temporarily bracketed till the Appropriations Committee, or someone else, can come back and give us a solid answer. I would make a motion that we bracket 287, before we go further on the amendment to get some actual figures. I would make this a motion to bracket 287.

PRESIDENT: There's a motion to bracket the bill. We haven't disposed of the amendment, but there is a motion to bracket the bill. Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: The motion . . . the question now is to bracket?

PRESIDENT: To bracket the bill.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well I don't have a strong feeling on that. Can I talk anyway?

PRESIDENT: Are you asking for a parliamentary rule, or a gut reaction, Senator? You have the floor, Senator.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright. I'll talk about the issue. It seems to me that you can't spend this money twice. The bill was introduced to cover court costs. If there's a justification for that and a need to increase the fee to cover the court costs, then you take that revenue and apply it to a specific program, one of the two things aren't going to be accomplished or funded. The other thing is that I don't think we have any justification for taking a special program, like highway safety, and funding it out of the court costs. It will only result in confusion and a lack of accountability. There's a lot of other kinds of programs waiting in the wings if you open the door up to funding these things by court costs. You've got alcoholic treatment, criminal rehabilitation, everything else. If you're going to take that direction and say that specialized programs that deal with a contact with the court system should be funded by court costs, you're going to have some horrendous court costs if you follow that