

February 2, 1973

are township counties, elect on this four, on this same four year interval.

SENATOR SYAS: Alright, the other question is, the minimums you're talking about, wages, right?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Right.

SENATOR SYAS: And then Senator DeCamp as I try to follow him, he's talking for or against, I couldn't quite catch it, of cost of living, is that what you're trying to do without having a specific figure?

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes.

SPEAKER: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes.

SENATOR SYAS: Just the cost of living without having a specific minimum, in other words an escalating cost?

SENATOR DECAMP: That's correct.

SENATOR SYAS: Can you do that under the constitution of the state of Nebraska?

SENATOR DECAMP: I believe so, but I would be willing to check it out further. It's my understanding that you can.

SENATOR SYAS: Well I don't think you can, but I'm not a court.

SENATOR DECAMP: I would agree.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Stull, then Whitney, Rasmussen, DeCamp, Stromer.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President and members of the legislature the question of whether these terms can be raised and Senator Syas luted to it, you neither can raise nor lower the term of elected official during his term, once he is elected he's going to get the salary set for the four years. Now, the supervisors and commissioners, where you have someone coming on the board, and this bill doesn't effect that, those people, but there is a chance of actually raising the salary there whenever a new member joins the board or commission. Now I've been involved in this thing since the very first bill back in 1953, and I was at that time the only person that appeared to favor the county commissioner setting the salaries for these people, for the elected officials. Now it has worked real well in most of the counties, and as Senator Anderson said, they're about twenty percent of the counties that will let the salary set right on the minimum, but now I would like to point out, if we raise these minimum salaries, we're going to have the same situation cause these same twenty percent of counties will still leave it set right on the minimum and in four years the counties officials will be back here, at least from these few counties wanting to raise the salary, but there never going to be able to catch up to the salary in the eighty percent of the counties. Now I certainly support the theory that the county boards out there should take the responsibility of setting these salaries. I've always said that, but I don't think that if we raise these salaries to the minimum proposed in this bill, will be the answer to the question, and at this time my position is that I'm going to oppose this bill, because in eighty percent of the counties, the county boards are taking care of their people. Thank you.