

February 8, 1973

**SPEAKER:** We have before the body Senator DeCamp's amendment to LB 74, Senator Anderson's bill, Senator Nore do you care to speak on the amendment?

**SENATOR NORE:** Mr. President, and fellow members, I oppose this amendment. We are doing nothing more than passing the buck. If the buck should stop here, as farmer Truman has said, and I think probably another thing if the kicks in here get too hot maybe we had better get out. So I say we should continue to set these salaries, we passed this job of setting salaries on to the county commissioners for their salaries and in my county, one of my neighbor counties they raised the salaries a hundred percent, and many I understand raise it more than a hundred percent. So if you vote for the amendment you vote for LB 74, go home and tell you constituents that you raised the property taxes.

**SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes Senator Hasebroock, then Stahmer, then Anderson, then Stull.

**SENATOR HASEBROOCK:** Mr. President, members of the legislature, I rise in support of Senator DeCamp's motion to let the county board set the salaries, I think this is where it belongs, they are better qualified, they know what the ability of the county officials are, and I don't see any reason why the legislature should have that, take that away from them. I think that is where it belongs, I hope that you will support this DeCamp amendment.

**SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes Senator Anderson.

**SENATOR ANDERSON:** The first thing that I would like to find out, is where Senator DeCamp learned his mathematics, I haven't had a chance to work this across the board, but in terms of the impact that the implementation that this bill as it is written now would have on property tax, in my own county of Kearney which I'm familiar with, if this bill were implemented instead of a 6% increase in the county budget, there would only be a 1% increase and this is in the county budget, in terms of increase in total property taxes in Kearney County the implementation of this bill would only be two tenths of one percent, so I think he is seriously misleading you here. Naturally I'm very much opposed to this bill, because I think that Senator DeCamp is very much opposed to Senator DeCamp's amendment, because I think that he's asking you to adopt the solution that has already been tried and rejected by this body. Between 1953 and 1961 for eight years, the legislature tried this solution. They found out that it simply did not work, that there were some counties that did not accept this responsibilities, that did not do a good job of setting salaries. We found the county officials salaries got to the level that was so low that it was impossible for them to exist on these salaries, unless they were moonlighting, or had some other side income, I don't think this is a fair situation to impose on those few counties that are not living up to that responsibility. The case is being made here for some kind of an ideal state of absolute control. I think instead we should look at what the real situation is, and the real situation is that the state is continually setting standards for these offices to comply with, continually saying what your responsibilities, what your duties are, continually saying what kind of qualifications you've got to live up to in order to be in the office, we've told the county assessor's for example that you've got to go to a school every year in order to be qualified, and then we are turning around and saying that we are not going to accept any responsibility at all to see that this man is paid a fair salary. This particular bill is offering a solution that I think is a balance solution, and this I think is the approach that we should take, this is the approach that I believe the legislature has found by experience is the way to go. It is not taking any kind of local control away from those four fifths of the counties that are doing a good job in setting salaries, it's