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(Start of Belt #5)

the County Board didn't like holding the other office and would make it very difficult for him to make a living and so, at least, for the smaller counties we are going to have to keep the minimums in because they are very close. They know each other and sometimes they get along and sometimes they do not. So that is why I think we ought to, at least, have some minimum.

SPEAKER: The chair would inquire if there is further discussion of the DeCamp amendment. Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I would like to ask somebody one question. Does the law as it now exists without this bill allow the County Commissions to do anything they want to. To raise anybody's salaries above the existing minimum. Is that so, or isn't it so?

SPEAKER: Senator DeCamp, do you care to respond?

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is absolutely correct. The County officials at this time can make it go to a million dollars a year if they want it. The Legislature by enacting this bill is actually forcing all counties into a position of raising, in effect. At least that's the ultimate affect as I see it.

SENATOR CARPENTER: It just seems to me that all we're doing.. we've got an unknown number of counties who because whatever the reason is won't raise salaries. Well, I hear in the body day after day, day after day about local responsibility. Now here's a chance to leave it where the responsibility belongs and when we get through discussing Senator DeCamp's motion, I am going to move to indefinitely postpone the bill and let them have their own problem and live with it and suffer with it.

SPEAKER: We still have before us Senator DeCamp's motion. Senator Stull, did you wish to be heard again on this? Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, I think that I'd like to correct the statement that Senator DeCamp just made. Senator DeCamp if you would listen quite closely. Senator DeCamp! In the Committee hearing we were passed out, and I only do this for clarification of the record, we were passed out the sheet that gave the present salaries and the minimums. Now, I think the statement that you made you'd like to check over, if you don't mind please, because I do know in my own county what you said about the minimums is not correct. We are paying more than the minimums now and I think, probably, if I might say this. I think if I recall correctly many years ago I was one who was responsible to let the County Commissioners set their salaries of all County officials. I did it in good faith at the time and they found out it wouldn't work and I just don't like to see it go back to something that by experience they found out doesn't work. I was all hot to go for the very amendment that you have, Senator DeCamp, and I accomplished it, but it didn't work. I admit my error so I am going to go along with raising their minimums mainly because of situations such as arose in Senator Stull's district up around.. is it up at Chadron, Senator Stull? and some of those because I'm not in any difficulty but I think some of the County officials might be.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion of Senator DeCamp's motion? Senator DeCamp is now closing on his motion.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, let me clarify for all members of the Legislature the exact status of the law as it now exists. As it now exists, the Legislature