

February 8, 1973

(Start Belt #6)

the county commissioners in counties were apparently with the knowledge and I presume acceptance of their people they don't want to raise the salaries. Now it seemed to me that county people ought to live within the limitations and delegations of broad authority of those county commissioners that do what they want to do, and be responsible to the people who elect them to serve them, and I don't think that I realize that I'm probably the most inconsistent person in the body, and I don't bring that up, but it seems to me that we ought to give consideration not to do things like this. Now the county commissions have an organization which is a good organization, when they get on your back my friends you know you've got somebody on your back, and Mr. Runke is a highly qualified lobbyist. I know from previous experience and on this floor when you oppose him you ought to really know what your trying to do, now it seems to me with that type of an organization, with their cohesive and in most things they are all in agreement, why we should settle a family quarrel if that's what it is, to make a few counties do what they don't want to do. I don't think that's good judgement or good legislation.

SPEAKER: Senator DeCamp did you wish to speak on the motion? Then Senator Anderson.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Just very briefly the whole theory behind this bill, is first of all we tell the county officials, in the most important aspect of county government, which is determining how many people are going to work this type of thing, what the salaries are going to be, we don't feel you're competent, and we are going to run it from the State House. Second the county officials have the out on the property tax increase, and believe me brother you're going to see a good chunky increase on this, of always saying the legislature did it down in Lincoln, and you'll never be able to deny it, if you push that green button, no I want you to push the green button and indefinitely postpone, the red button on this one, anyway, the whole theory is that the county officials aren't competent to set the salaries and we are, and the county officials are just one hair smarter than us, because they know they can get increases across the board, through this bill, without ever taking responsibility for a property tax increase.

SPEAKER: Senator Anderson, still speaking on the motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Once again, I rise in opposition. The contention is made here that this is a bill which forces county commissioners to do something they don't want to do. The fact of the matter is it doesn't have any impact on most of the county commissioners in the state because they are already doing a good job of setting salaries. The only thing we are trying to do is address ourselves to problem areas, we are trying to respond to the fact that we have set a set of job qualifications, job standards, responsibilities, duties, and we want to make sure that everybody in the state receives fair compensation for carrying out duties that we have told these people to do. So I urge you to defeat this amendment to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer and then Senator Duis.

SENATOR STAHMER: I too, would like to speak against the kill motion, I think the two men in this body most knowledgeable about county matters especially out in the smaller rural counties is Senator Anderson and Senator Stull who have been directly involved themselves, I think we ought to give them a vote of confidence and it just amazes me that we are going to be turning around about six weeks from now and pleading for the people to