

March 4, 1974

I am sorry Senator Kime that your bill is being used here in this fashion, I truly am. LB950 which was introduced as I said earlier was to do two things. Re-establish a \$12,000 salary for the Douglas County Board but beyond that remove the privilege of setting their own salaries from the county board. Some Senators at the time said that would you be against amending it to include all county boards? No, I would not. Question was raised does the amendment not also allow the county board the out to raise their salaries if they care too. Yes, it certainly does. Then some people spoke to the issue and said that they certainly wouldn't do that. Tell me that they wouldn't do that. I don't think that they would do it today, or this year, but I think that there is a case made to remove the privilege of setting your own salaries from that board. Now, there are those that are going to take this as a political speech. It is not intended for that, but I have spend a lot of time going through some interesting things regarding the actions of the Douglas County Board. When I covered the county board I tried with some other reporters to try and get the board to have an adgenda, published in advance where we knew what was going to be happening. They didn't do it. During the debate here a few years back, SENator Syas and I during the open meetings law, wanted to include provision where the adgenda must be published before a certain time. That wasn't done. I have copies here, members of the legislature showing that on a couple of occasions when a sticky issue came up in about the last four or five years, the county board then moved to passify the public by "stating that they would have an adgenda policy". That policy says that they will post the adgenda in three public places, after it is written up in the daily record, which is a newspaper of course generally speaking only attorneys only subscribe to. The general public is not notified. Since I raise the the issue of the salary increase for Douglas County, and promise legislation to return the \$12,000 salary and save \$15,000 a year, the county board has a new adgenda policy. All items should be in by Friday noon to the county clerk but of course the board saved the right to change the adgenda if they so choose. Let me give you a couple of examples that I would respectfully ask for your attention in this area. I realize that it is an issue that deals only with Douglas County but it is a very important issue. It is an issue regarding why do many citizens have a low regard for political office holders these days. If they think that Watergate is something, take a look at some of the things that go on on the local level. Why wasn't there a public hearing on salary increases for the Douglas County Commissioners? Why have they raised their salaries three times since they have got the rights for the privilege from the legislature to establish their own salaries. What are they afraid of with a public hearing? Why wasn't there a public hearing when a cable TV permit was granted a few years ago? Why wasn't there a public hearing when the board appointed themselves as the five trustees of the county hospital operations in the face of an attorney General's opinion. Why did they sit there when I raised the question of a salary increase and say that I would have legislation, why was the comment the next week that were worth \$15,000 and I don't care what State Senator doesn't think so. Then in the face of attorney general's opinion they....I got why did they decide to try to return themselves to \$12,000 salary knowing that the statutes say 60 days prior to filing deadlines you shall have all established. What about those persons who have filed now? I'm not just talking about this issue, I'm talking about the whole