

April 3, 1974

SENATOR DE CAMP: That's exactly what the purpose of the bill was as amended as gutted with my permission and agreement and unless we adopt it, we'll be operating on 12¢ a mile as senators and state employees while county people get 16¢ or 18¢ so this gets it up to 16¢ which is a reasonable amount with today's cost of gasoline. Do what you want with the bill but you have to adopt the amendment to get it gutted and get the 16¢ provision for the senators.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Question of Senator DeCamp or the committee...maybe perhaps the committee chairman. Is or was this amendment considered at the public hearing or has this been inserted some....it has had a public hearing?

PRESIDENT: Senator Waldron.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Sorry I was out of the room when this was brought up. But this amendment was brought to us in the form of a bill. While the committee agreed to introduce the bill to do this but we felt then that the best procedure would be to take one of the bills that we had because it would be a lot faster to do so so we could get it up this year. With the rapid rise of inflation, the great increase of the fuel cost, this is vitally needed by those people that use their car for state business, that is their personal car and pay out of their own pocket. So that's why the committee chose the procedure to take this bill rather than to introduce or follow up with a bill they agreed to introduce that raise the amounts of mileage. So I would hope we could adopt this amendment which does become the bill and pass it along. I think it is justified. And I don't think anyone can say that the fuel costs haven't gone up enough to justify this increase.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Waldron a question.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Nore, I'm sorry, Senator Dickinson was still on his feet, he hadn't finished his statement. Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I did ask a question, Mr. Speaker, and I didn't get a direct answer but I'm assuming this bill has had no public hearing. If that's true, I think this is a bad way to pass legislation. I don't care what it is. And I believe I can still drive my car for 12¢ a mile, I don't think we should use this method as state senators to slip something through. If we want to do it legitimately a year from now, that's the time to do it. I think we ought to not advance this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and members. I feel the same way. That some years ago I encouraged the county officials, and many others did, to organize. And I thought they were organizing for the tax payers but I find they're organizing for the benefit of the county officials and not the tax payers.