

February 22, 1979

LB 26

allow for a half mill on LB 26. Senator Kremer had a motion pending to amend the DeCamp amendment from one half mill to three quarter mill.

PRESIDENT: And I have the speaking order that the presiding officer left at the desk and I will go over this speaking order. It will be in this order: Senator DeCamp, Senator Johnson, Senator Koch, Senator Haberman, Senator Kremer, Senator Maresh, Senator Schmit, Senator Beutler. Senator Warner... Yes. Senator Warner, your name is added then to that... Is that....? That is what you...? Yes, all right. All right, we will proceed then with Senator DeCamp with debate on the Kremer amendment to the DeCamp amendment. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in the area of water legislation I have tried as much as humanly possible to follow the guidance and enlist the assistance and advice of Senator Kremer and that has worked out rather well. I expressed concern about the big increase in property taxes. Today I want to relay or reveal to you two things that I think of critical importance which obviously nobody cares about at this point but maybe the media will pick it up at least because it is going to be important. I suggested and Senator Cullan apparently disagreed that what we are talking about is not a small increase, that the increases, they disguised increase at the very minimum. It is a quarter of a mill now. Senator Kremer proposes to go up to three quarters of a mill which is two times as much, a 200% increase. I say that is a deceptive figure, that it is even much more than that. Now what am I talking about? I checked last night and I found that agricultural land on the sales assessment ratio is valued approximately, if you just go from county to county, anywhere from as little as one fifth or one sixth to an average of about one fourth of what the sales assessment ratio is. Now one of these days, one of these days there is going to be a shakeup and it is going to happen before 1980 and I think the courts are going to order it. It is going to happen and these land values are going to be brought in line and when it happens that 200% increase is multiplied by two or three or four. You could be talking a 1000% increase, 500%. You are talking significant increases. That concerns me but last night as I lay sleeping I woke up and realized why I am really concerned about the particular legislation and I want you all to ask yourselves if maybe we are moving into territory that we have never moved into before and we had better stop, look and listen. I asked