

March 12, 1979

LB 26

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you wish to speak to the Carsten amendment? Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak to the Carsten amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I...I think I oppose it. I think I oppose it, but I want to understand why you want to do this. Now let me explain, what I understand how the new thing would work, and then see if I understand it right. When the Attorney General came down and gave his opinion, he says, you know, the mill levy's not affected, which...which is completely understandable, and I agree, you know. The lid bill dealt with budget limitations, but as a practical matter, as I understand it, for them to utilize the mill levy increase, they would have to increase the budget, which creates, by its very nature then, a vote of the people anyway. So, since you're going to have a vote of the people, if they want to utilize the new law at all, the amendment dealt with it in some detail, and I think the amendment then, on this one weakness or loophole that we felt was in the lid bill, and remember that loophole was that they could average budgets for three years, they could take them and average them, it wanted to eliminate that loophole from use on this particular area. And so I think they would want that because if you had the vote of the people, and then you tripled...let's say you had a two or three hundred percent increase, which is probable, under the...under the new mill levy, if you then averaged two or three hundred percent increase with the past, it makes a mockery of the seven percent limitation if you then use this loophole. So, with that understanding, I would think you would want to keep this in as a protection on this whole thing, but that's just my understanding. How do you react to that?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, Senator DeCamp, my reaction is this, that I am agreeing with what you're saying, but they're putting all governmental subdivisions into a water bill. Now, we're trying to address all governmental subdivisions with the same answer for the same reasons, and I believe that this is the improper place to do it in a water bill, when we're trying to take up LB 1 with the clarification amendments.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, you're talking about...yes...got you completely. You're talking about addressing other than the... other political subdivisions.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Absolutely.