

March 28, 1979

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and then Senator Rumery, and then Senator Nichol, and then Senator Maresh. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I join Senator Schmit in the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill. The only reason I didn't do it, he got his light on a little bit sooner. And I would like to reecho some of the things Senator Schmit said, and that is that I can easily see why Senator Cullan took it upon himself with the help of others to review the taxation procedures of our railroads. It needs it. We acknowledge that. I want to say at this point too that I'd be the last one to say that I don't have the greatest respect for the railroads. In many ways we need them, and that is proven by the fact that every time there is a move to abandon a certain section of a railroad we all fight with all of our ability to keep it there. We need the railroads, and I respect them in their ability to move our products from one point to another, but under this bill...let me point out what it does. I looked over my district. I'm not too concerned about four of the counties, but look at Merrick County for example, our school districts in Merrick County under this bill will lose over 48 nearly 49 thousand dollars. The county, itself, will lose 14 thousand dollars. There's no way the schools of Merrick County with the lid bills and whatnot can contend with that kind of a loss in revenue. It can't be done. I admire the senators that worked on this bill for what you have done, but what comes out at the end of the pipe is completely unacceptable the way that it affects my district. I can't do it. You force me to move to indefinitely postpone the bill. Now we've been kind to the railroads in the way that we assess them. We've been kind to them in that we...the law says they have to take care of their noxious weeds, but do they do it? The answer is no. How about the fences to keep livestock in or out? The fences are not kept up, and we have not enforced the law. I think we've been kind to them. Now we can go a little bit further I think when we go to taxing this tremendous operation, and I think that we can bring out a bill to see that no one does, or no county, or no school district does lose the revenue that they are now getting. We can do it, but it's going to take some work. I cannot support this bill. I will support the kill motion, and I hope there's enough of us joined to do it at this time, and then give us a chance to work on it through the summer, through the interim, and come up with a bill that I think can be acceptable.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before Senator Rumery speaks, I would like