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LB 138

rise in support of the Kahle amendment to the committee amendments. At the present time the counties are responsible for 20% of Medicare and of course, by decreasing this cost by 2½% a year for the next three or four years I feel is fair, it is equitable and I believe it is reasonable. Last year we passed a 7% lid that takes effect to local governments and, of course, with this lid it is real hard for the counties to come out on it and by this I mean that Medicare costs have risen according to the word that I received from my county commissioners, about 20 or 25% in the last year and, of course, they have to pay this and when they are paying this well then they have got to drop their budget with other things and especially one of those is the county roads and the county bridges and it is the responsibility of the counties to take care of the poor and the disabled and the elderly and I think that they need some help and by passing this amendment we would be helping them. After 1982 the counties would still be paying 10% of the cost and I think by leaving the 10% on this we could at least try and control some of these costs. This would be done by the local government so I urge you to support the Kahle amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes, do you want to talk to the Kahle amendment number one? Your light is on along with the Kahle amendment number one.

SENATOR KEYES: That is the amendment that extends it out every four or five years. Is that right, Senator Kahle? Extends it out over four years. I have never supported taking the Medicare off of the county and putting it on the state but this year I am going to do it. It is going to seem an unusual situation for me but I will tell you why. Joe Williams ran a poll about four years ago, three years ago in which the state Senators rated 8% popularity across this state and the county governments, the county commissioners rated up about 75% popularity so I would like to get once on the right side of an issue and I am going to try to get on that side this time. Also I want you to remember that as the lid bill is now written, remember that Douglas County, Sarpy County and all the counties, that if we give them and absorb part of this expense, they will be able to pick up and operate within the 7%. So I am going to support that. I want you to know one thing. I just got the valuation of Douglas County, what it was last year and what it is going to be next year