

April 27, 1979

LB 42

posed DeCamp amendment to LB 42 is being withdrawn. Is there any objections? So ordered. Now, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Phil Kenney, people in North Platte and anyplace else, I have never been more dead serious about something than I am now. I am going to make some accusations and I realize I am flying in the face of a tornado and a super powerful thing, the railroads, but I think I am going to start laying it on the table now because by next year at this time it is going to all be out there for everybody to see. Allegation number one, I told you I was going to make it and prove it, that 103 and 105 which you all passed in glee because you thought you were increasing the railroad taxes about \$200,000 was a hoax and a dupe and if you confront the lobbyists on the railroad with the right questions and the right information you are going to find it out. So you shifted the things around a little. Pass out the first set of exhibits. You shifted some of the taxing authority around a little. The whole increase is theorized and based upon present mill levies. The computer printout you got is based upon present mill levies. The railroads have always contended and they have a good case, that from the standpoint of actual value and that is why they go to court every year, they are at actual value and everybody else is below it. When you bring everybody else up, which is happening now, slowly, the railroads are going to benefit from the way lower mill levies and so your big tax increase is probably going to be a tax decrease. That is the mechanical part. Now I am going to get to the dupe part and I am sorry I didn't get this discovered or figured out until later until I started putting pieces together. You have got to combine 103 and 105 but then when you get them all added up together you find another little factor and that factor is that the sidetracks are going to be valued and taxed at half. Right? Half the main track. Check with the federal programs. Check with the railroad programs. They are all laid out. They don't just accidentally do these things overnight. The program is that the sidetracks are going to become main tracks. They are building two and five mile sections one after another and the plan is you just keep putting them together as you increase your rail traffic so you have in tracks side by side. Only now all these new sidetracks are going to be at half value. You just shafted this state out of millions and millions and millions over the next many years. But let's forget 103 and 105 and go on from there. The exhibits I am passing out you will see one

4104