

April 27, 1979

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SENATOR DeCAMP: Did he have a question? Did you want me to respond, Sam?

SENATOR CULLAN: It is really not part of this issue and I don't think it should have been allowed in this discussion but we are going to take it up at a later point in time because the allegations are very serious. I have no questions for Senator DeCamp at this time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You are out of time anyway, so... Senator Schmit and then Senator Clark.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp, I wish you would stay here for just a moment. Members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the DeCamp amendments. I think as Senator DeCamp has pointed out, as has been pointed out on this floor time after time after time and I believe that Senator Cullan was correct when he said the public has a bear on their shoulders and the bear happens to be the railroads and the bear, as Senator Murphy's gorilla frequently does, sleeps wherever he darn pleases and he happens to sleep in this Legislature. He slept in this Legislature when LB 103 and 105 was passed, as I pointed out to you, but in any case, that mistake has been propagated upon the people of this state with whatever consequences are to be developed in the future but the problem that rests here today with this body is whether or not we are going to subject the people of this state to the further inconvenience, the further handicaps that result from a multiple of coal trains rumbling through this state time after time after time, day after day, hour after hour. The City of Columbus, Schuyler, Fremont, North Bend, all of them in my area are going to be subjected to extremely heavy traffic. You are going to find costs imposed upon municipalities due to the fact that additional fire stations, for example, will have to be constructed to protect citizens who happen to live on one side or the other of the tracks. Police departments are going to have to install stations because of the delay subject to train travel. Ambulances and hospitals, the very lives of people not at all, in no way connected with railroad traffic are going to be jeopardized because of serious problems resulting from the traffic of the trains. Now it is very magnanimous for the railroads to suggest that they are doing all of this in the interest of the public good. After all they are transporting coal which is a very important source of energy and the people demand it and need it. Unfortunately Nebraska happens to lie in the path of