

April 27, 1979

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district, eight seniors, one teacher from Ralston High School, Larry Koenig the teacher of the American Politics class. Where are you folks located? Welcome to the Unicameral. Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. Speaker and members, here we go again. We are going to tax the railroads. We are really going to screw them out of some money. Isn't that wonderful? Why don't you just come right out and say who you are going to tax? You are going to tax the consumer. You don't tax the railroads. They just merely add it on and it does seem a little odd to me, that these people all voted to kill the coal slurry line. Senator Cullan is the one that killed the coal slurry line and here he is screaming about railroad crossings and I had an amendment up there that I withdrew saying if you couldn't spend any money at all on railroad crossings for a coal slurry line, you don't need them. That was a one method of transporting coal that you don't have this problem on. You are not under any condition going to tax the railroads. In the first place this won't fly anyway today. You don't have enough people here but you are not going to tax the railroads. They merely add it on to their product and the consumer pays for it. Now Senator DeCamp wanted to take off the railroads having anything to do with railroad crossings, saving a million and a quarter dollars, whatever it was. That is wonderful. Now you are trying to tax it back on. Why take it off in the first place? I think the railroads do have a responsibility but if you think that you are going to tax the railroads and get any money out of them, I think you have got to screw your head back on the other way. You are just not going to do it. As long as they have a monopoly to haul the coal they can put any amount of money on that they want. No one in the world can touch them. Now if I have any time left I will be glad to give it to Senator DeCamp even though I completely disagree with him on this because it has not had a public hearing. You are changing the whole bill under color of an amendment and I just don't like to do that in the first place. I think it ought to have a public hearing but if he wants additional time I will be glad to give it to him.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have about three minutes, Senator DeCamp on Senator Clark's time.

SENATOR DeCAMP: With respect to Senator Clark's concern about it being passed onto the consumer, I happen to totally agree but let's understand what we are talking about