

April 27, 1979

LB 42

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp to close on his motion.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, you have all heard the story about the camel and the Arab. The camel comes along and he is cold and the Arab is sitting in his tent and the camel says, can't I just put my nose in the tent to kind of warm my nose? The Arab thinks, well heck, let him have his nose in the tent. He gets that nose kind of warmed up and he says well can I get my head in? You have got lots of room in there. Well, the Arab thinks what's a little more room. By the way, the Arabs these days aren't like this. Anyway, he let the camel get its head in. Well pretty soon it was the neck and then the front feet and before he knew it the camel had pushed the Arab out of the tent and had taken over. What I say next isn't to the members of the Legislature. You see I know walking into this that I don't have the votes. I have tried to work it alone. The railroads have pulled all the stops. They brought the trucking industry in. They have made this a live or die issue and I know what is going to happen. So what I am telling you, Mr. Burlington Northern, Mr. Union Pacific, with your \$240,000,000 net profit last year, you are not finished. You are not finished. You may beat this tax but you are not going to suck this state dry and give nothing in return and next year I am going to stand on this floor with the facts and figures and prove how much you beat us out of with your sidetrack dodge. I know, you have got all the money in the world you can spend. You can wipe me out and do all those things but one of these days if enough people get killed out there on those railroad crossings, if enough people get hurt, if enough businessmen have to stand and sit in their cars and enough farmers have to wait on their tractors, while coal train after coal train goes through, they are going to start biting you guys in the butts and they are going to ask for something. They are going to say, how did we get this problem. Why don't we have any money to build the overpasses, to get the underpasses, so on and so forth? And then the record is going to show up. The record is going to show up that the railroads hold all the stops like they are able to do and they said, boys, we don't want this one. We don't want this one and you are going to try to get money out of the general fund here in the Legislature or maybe throw it on property taxes. Property taxes of all those people out there who are already suffering, they are going to be the ones to take it in the shorts. They are now going to have to pay for that. You are going to have a hell of a time explaining it.