

April 30, 1979

LB 398

probably go ahead and get it down now. Besides some people are up for election next year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: A question of Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Yes.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator DeCamp, how come you didn't include county judges here?

SENATOR DE CAMP: County judges as I suggested in my opening statement, we felt that they probably, in the amendment that was originally adopted after it got juggled around and amended the county judges probably came out at what they considered to be and what the Legislature apparently considered to be a reasonable level. It was the others that some people felt there were a disparity on, that is why I address these other here.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator DeCamp, a telephone conversation that I had today with a member of the bar indicated to me that they were generally pretty satisfied with their salaries. They didn't want me to cut the county judges salaries.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Then you shouldn't do it.

SENATOR KOCH: That is the reason I withdrew that amendment. I didn't realize that this ploy was being played. It is a ploy. I find it a little bit embarrassing that I withdraw an amendment where I felt that it was going to still be reasonable. Now, we leave the county attorneys as they are and I can understand that some of them were badly underpaid. I also understand the difficulty sometimes of obtaining men or women of qualified background for these positions. I also advise you that possibly we ought to consider these appointments regardless of political party. We might have a little bigger choice in terms of who we select rather than to much on politics.

SENATOR DE CAMP: I tend to agree that that criteria ought to be changed.

SENATOR KOCH: And, if we have a scarcity of county judges which I am led to believe by others, that maybe we ought to forget the parties and put them strictly on the merit of their qualifications and that is the way we ought to submit it.