

any kind of deal that you want to make up, and I have been a part of a lot of them. But the public's business has best be carried on in public. When it is carried on in another manner there are those who will suffer in the long run and that is the members of this body. I think that you can do anything you want to do in private agreement, but five or six people meeting over a weekend can not commit 49 members of this body, and if they can, they can not commit this one. I want the record to show that. I want it to be a matter of record that as time goes by those agreements will come back to haunt you. I rise in opposition to my good friend Senator Carsten's amendment. I ask that LB 138 be adopted as it was written in Final Reading form.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I have been supporting the proposal contained in LB 138 for many years. But you will notice that yet has it to be enacted. We have gotten farther with the idea of having this state pay for state programs this year than ever. Notice that we are just getting someplace. Again it is time to compromise and it would appear to me that a 20% reduction in that money that the state will pay to the counties for medicaid is an excellent compromise and particularly when all of the ducks are lined up ready to go. It sounds reasonable to me that at last the state is going to start a program of paying these medicaid payments at the state level. Don't allow inflexibility in your mind to defeat this opportunity to get some money to the counties. Senator Schmit would have you believe that the 2½% that is contained in 138 actually already is a fact for the counties and that this amendment would take 20% of that money away from the counties. Not true. What is true is that there is no money now going to the counties for this effort and this amendment would very well assure that we would start paying this at the state level and start paying it this year. Also the Revenue Committee as you are well aware will be holding massive interim study hearings and staff work on revenue gathering program for the state of Nebraska. We are going to learn a lot this interim on what we want to do with our taxing system and any at all items such as 138 "will certainly be adjusted in the very near future". Let's take what we are sure that we can get which is the 2% which is offered in Senator Carsten's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: I move the previous question.