

the DeCamp amendment?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to ask Senator DeCamp a question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, do you yield?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR KAHLE: Is there a possibility that the county Board of Equalization is not living up to its responsibility through this process?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Through the existing process I would say you are absolutely correct. They are not. And I think they know it. I think they know they have been put in something over their heads. What we should do is like this amendment does is delegate them the authority to make sure there is an expert there to do that job.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, I guess that...I am not an attorney but I suppose the statutes call for the county Board of Equalization to make that decision when it is finally made, and I guess what bothers me a little bit is that if we have these referees that we may lose the continuity or the taxpayer may feel, well, I have been given the run around because they gave me a referee and I asked to speak with the Board of Equalization, and I just wonder how it would actually work out in any county and especially outstate. Do you have any comments on that?

SENATOR DeCAMP: It has to work out better than the situation is now. It can't be any worse. At least this way you are getting adequate information. You are going to probably have a pretty adequate hearing for the first time. It is going to be based on facts instead of capriciousness, and I think it is capricious now. I think that is exactly why Senator Beutler wants to do it. I went to Lancaster County on an appeal. Hell, we spent...they explained to me, you know, we had three minutes or two and a half, two and five-eighths minutes, some amount like that, and we spent five minutes arguing how do you present anything in two and five-eighths minutes and how that was unconstitutional. You need somebody that can do something somewhat skilled in this field, and I think Senator Beutler's amendment offers the system...I am just expanding that system. Now the county board can still sit there and do it if they want. This just offers them flexibility.

SENATOR KAHLE: I am still concerned about the statute. It