

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, do you yield?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator DeCamp, one of the questions that I...you know, I can understand what is good for Omaha and Lincoln is good for the rest of the state except that there are some unique problems here and those problems are that there is a lot more taxpayers, there is fewer elected officials, is it your desire to get the elected officials, the county board, out of the equalization business, out of the hearing process altogether?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Not necessarily. My desire is to provide flexibility and assistance. There is nothing works better than adequate information and expertise in an area, and I don't think you should be so reluctant, as some are apparently, to afford a public official having to make a decision adequate information. Voting blind on bills in here is terrible and everybody knows it, and that is why we all try to find out as much information on a bill as possible. Well, when you are talking about somebody's property rights, whether the value of something relative to other values is accurate and fair, you are talking something really fundamental...dollars and cents for individual landowners out there. If we want anything to be good, equal, fair, it is the taxation system. What is wrong with making sure that county official can utilize the assistance of an appraiser, of somebody that has expertise in this field? What is wrong with that?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Senator DeCamp, I generally wanted a question and not some more debate on this. I think that some of the arguments that have been made by others, Senator Hefner, my good colleague on the Revenue Committee makes an excellent point when he says, we really ought to have a public hearing. You know there is some opposition to this sort of proposal, the fact that the elected officials are the ones who really are responsible in this area and that the only reason we are giving this same authority to Lancaster County as we gave to Douglas County is primarily because of the great difficulty it is for those boards to hear all these matters. But I think it is important for the boards to hear these complaints. They better understand the problems of property tax assessment and so forth, and for that reason I have to oppose your quite meritorious proposal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope. We are speaking to the DeCamp amendment.

SENATOR COPE: I would certainly oppose...Mr. President and