

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, over the years we sometimes take difficult bills and we give them a little bit of an identity, like litter bills get to be puppies and other bills get other acronyms, so on and so forth. I think this bill might properly be labeled a Phoenix bill. Now the Phoenix is the bird of mythology, the beautiful plumed bird that dies in flames and fire and every thousand years it rises from its ashes, beautiful and ready to go again. Well I think this has to be ready at this time. All it needs is a little more plumage and a few less ashes. So I tried to figure where are the problems in this bill. My good friends in here that normally I would hope would be supporting something like this. It is done to help Nebraska. Where are their hangups? Where does Senator Wesely have a problem? Where does my good friend, Senator Fitzgerald, have a problem? Who else has a little bit of a problem with the bill? And I went to Fitz and Fitz explained to me. He said, well he had some problem with, with... He mentioned many things. The Chamber of Commerce, he said, do they really need this? Are they really responsible on this? I said, I think they are, Fitz. He said, well then if they are, if they really are, we should let the spending of this money be completely controlled by elected officials. He said, you know last time I had to let it be known that the county board at Omaha, Douglas County Board, was actually opposed to legislation. I said, Fitz, as I have told my good friend, Senator Beutler, old John is the most flexible person in here when it comes to correcting problems or problems that you perceive. I said, what would you recommend? He said, let's make sure those county boards, elected officials have complete control. This committee you want to create, he said, let's make sure it is nothing more than advisory. That is what they are. They are private citizens, whether they are from the Chamber of Commerce or lodging association. Let's make sure that all they do is advise the county board, that is ultimately that county board, elected officials, that decide where that money is going to be spent, that they have the responsibility and control. Let's make it an advisory committee. He says, I think with that, he said, I think I could overcome my opposition. He says that may not mean I love the bill but he said, I think it will work if that is done. The amendment I have offered is precisely that proposal. Give that total control to the county board, the elected officials. Let them make those decisions. Now I am handing out at this time, I think, yes, why don't the three pages hand it out. I am handing you out some