

seven percent. Let's face it. Lets us take the heat, not push that out to those county commissioners and say this is what you are going to do. It is up to you to find the money someway. Of course, you stick to your limit and you stick to your seven percent but you pay what we say. I think we are being irresponsible when we say to counties, you do this, you stick to your mill levy limit, you stick to your lid but still pay this. It is just unreasonable to dictate this way to county officials. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to the Vickers amendment. We are on the Vickers amendment. Then we have another amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my remarks will be brief. I'd just like to call the fact to this body that the sheriffs knew what the salary was when they ran for this office, just like us legislators know what we are going to get while we are in office. Therefore, I think it is kind of foolhardy for us to say, now the sheriffs are going to get X amount of dollars. I think Senator Vickers' amendment is a fair amendment. It doesn't give quite as great an increase as proposed by the committee but I still think it is fair. Therefore, I would urge you to support the Vickers amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope, do you wish to speak to the Vickers amendment?

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, the bill is a good bill with one exception and that is the salaries schedule. Remember this, what we are doing, we tell counties you have a limit. We pass laws to that, and again, we are doing... telling them that they must pay a certain amount no matter what the amount is. We are telling them. We are smarter than they are. We can manage their budget in a better manner than they do, and yet, do we when the federal government puts mandates on us, do we accept them and say, oh boy, you are smart. You are so smart that we are not going to complain. We are going to accept it because you have more brains than we do. No, I should say we don't and I just don't like it. I haven't liked it in other instances. I am sure that sheriffs are underpaid. So are a lot of other people, but to mandate and then not back it up with cash is a part of it that I just can't take. And I am just thinking, too, maybe this isn't the best thing for the sheriffs. This sounds pretty great now for 1983, but with inflation as it is, in another ten years that could be a mighty low base and the counties could use that as a very