

February 11, 1980

LB 615

appeared in support. Did they support the bill in its original form or with the amendments?

SENATOR KEYES: They supported the bill in its original form and we talked about the amendments there.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Was that after their testimony?

SENATOR KEYES: After their testimony, yes.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, we are on the committee amendments now, is that right?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, I have an amendment I mentioned the other week that brings state and all other public employees up to the same rate, twenty-one. It has sheriffs at twenty-four because of their special condition. I guess the proper thing would be to wait until the committee amendments are adopted or rejected, but I would point out that my amendment, so you know in advance, basically strikes the committee amendments and adopts this system I am suggesting. I said earlier, and I think Senator Wagner and some of the others agreed, that we should deal with the entire problem, all public employees that are having to finance the state or local government by driving. We should give them a reasonable reimbursement. I would also point out that we should not be deluded or fooled into constantly quoting the IRS. What amount we settle on should be a realistic amount to reimburse them for the amount they are actually spending. Now why is there a difference between that and the IRS? IRS isn't paying you for anything. IRS is merely a figure they allow you in calculating the total mileage cost. Okay, and remember this, in Nebraska we are talking about a lot of, quite frankly, bigger vehicles and we are talking about not an opportunity to change it until after we have gone through another fifty or seventy-five cents increase in gasoline. The twenty-one cents is at best, is at best, maybe a break-even figure and I don't think we should ever be asking public employees, quite frankly as poorly paid as they are, to be subsidizing state and local government. So I am going to vote against the committee amendments but only because I am offering an amendment that goes a