

February 11, 1980

LB 507

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Now, Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak? Excuse me. Oh, Senator Kremer, do you have other amendments? Okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kremer's amendments are found on page 576 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, the amendments that we just now adopted came because the Department of Economic Development that plays a key role in transportation and the study of our railroad problems, both of those amendments. Now the amendments that we have before you now are the amendments that came about because the Attorney General pointed out some parts of the bill that might be questionable and the amendments that we now offer address the Attorney General's concern. There are four points that ought to be made. There are actually seven. It states that the revitalization of railroads is a public purpose, not for a private, for private good, but it is a public purpose and that has to be emphasized in order to make it legally possible for local entities to enter into an agreement with the railroads in any form or shape at all. It spells out the terms of the Office of the Council, that is those that are appointed by the Governor again. The original white copy did not do that. Number three, it provides for the funding procedure and it states clearly that state appropriations, that is any appropriations out of this body, are only for administrative purposes, expenses, that is all. And all of the monies, like federal monies or monies raised at the local level by anyone that wishes to participate can be used for the retirement of bonds or whatever may be needed but state money can only be used for administrative expenses. It provides for the bonding provisions. It states again clearly that the state in no way is responsible and the state will not impair bond repayment. It goes on to define branch line revitalization, what we mean by branch line, and it goes on to redefine the federal act and it was not clear. I maybe should make a point on number 7, the last one I addressed. Number seven, the federal act is redefined to include the Department of Transportation as well as the Four R Act that I talked about just a moment ago. The Four R Act is just a subpart of the larger department known as the Department of Transportation. I move for the adoption of the amendments to the white copy.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments...the Kremer amendments. Senator Vickers, do you now wish...Senator Lewis, do you wish to