

February 28, 1980

LB 790A

SENATOR DeCAMP: Prosecution.....

SENATOR KAHLE: Is that the reason they want to do this, or is it to just increase their knowledge of law?

SENATOR DeCAMP: No. That is a good point. Over the years as you probably have been here you have recalled there have been various proposals that because prosecuting has become so sophisticated and you have defense attorneys paid by the state, we have got to make sure that a prosecution has a fair shot and they are qualified people, and doing the specific duties of a county attorney that is one of his duties. So there has been proposals to have a special prosecutor or district attorney system. I have always said it may be a noble idea and in New York or somewhere it would work. It would cost a pile of bucks. Maybe the next best thing is to make sure that the ones who are county attorneys have to meet certain qualifications and that we have a program so that in prosecution and this type of thing they receive specialized training, so, yes, you're right, this gets them in better shape to do their job and it is a specialized type of job, and I guess the only real question is whether the county attorney himself should pay, let's say the tuition that would do this, or whether the state or whether the county, and I think the option of this bill is the state would pay so you would have a uniform system and uniform prosecutorial system, and the state wouldn't impose this on the property tax. If we are going to have them get this education it has got to be paid for.

SENATOR KAHLE: To your knowledge then the county attorneys have been paying for this extra training themselves, perhaps maybe the county picking up the mileage. I guess what I am concerned about is that I think we are going to have an enormous amount of requests for state funding for various and assorted things. I think the sheriffs' bill is a good one and I think this is a minor thing compared to that, but I am a little bit concerned as to how many of these things are going to try to slip in and get a little bit of state money to help out their salary situation back home, and for that reason I think we need a little bit more information before I could vote for the bill or for the A bill. Thank you.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion on 790A? Senator Warner.