

March 3, 1980

LB 613

CLERK: 15 ayes, 19 nays on the DeCamp amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion lost. Now the motion before the House is the Keyes amendment. Senator Keyes, do you have any comments in closing?

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, yes, I am going to make a few. First of all, 285, LB 1, we had a good lid bill. It was on property and that is what the people of this state want. They want a limit on the amount of taxes that can be generated out of their house. We are pricing them out of it by taxes. We are taking it away from them. They cannot afford to live in their home because of taxes. We set here with a tax of 3% sales tax and Memphis, Tennessee, has 6%. They have a higher tax in Memphis, Tennessee, on their houses than we have on the same value house in Omaha. My friends, let me tell you something. We have set here year after year after year, we've dealt in hypocrisy with the people of this state to the tune of millions of dollars that we do not admit. Why? Why do we say to the people of this state, we are going to have a lid bill for you and then we punch it full of holes and it means absolutely nothing? Let me tell you something, if you vote down this amendment there is another amendment up there put in by Senator DeCamp and myself that is a lot better and a lot more strict than this. You had better follow this but if you cannot see fit to do that then you can follow what we put up for you next because the people of this state want it. They are tired of paying the taxes on their house. They are sick and tired of paying the taxes on their farm that is more than the rent on the farm was five years ago. I will support a limit on the amount of money that a tax property can generate either in the constitution or in statute. My friends, I cannot continue to deal in a hypo...whatever the word is...concept that we are teaching the...trying to play onto the people of this state. The time has come for us to sit down, meet the facts head on, say to the local subdivisions of government, you elect people to represent you and we sit down here and tell them how much they can spend. Is there one person in here can tell me how much the taxes should be in Valentine, Nebraska? There isn't one person can tell me. Hemingford, up there, Senator Cullan, do you think there is anybody out there can tell them how much they should raise their taxes next year? Why do you try to do it? Why do we try to do it? We try to do it just to satisfy some people that there ought to be a lid. There should be. We should tell the people that we are not going to generate more money on their property than what we are generating at a dollar and a half or two dollars for every hundred dollars worth of value. If you turn this down that amendment will probably come up next or very suddenly.

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