

come from a county that benefits. As I indicated earlier, the majority of the Appropriations Committee comes from counties that benefit. But all of us know that that aid to counties, when it was established, was in relation to personal property tax exemption. We all recall when that formula was thrown out by the courts and the new formula put in, in which a great many of the counties that stand to lose even more now, lost reimbursement then. And the majority of us felt that we could not justify a further reduction in those receipts, particularly when you look at those sheets and pick Arthur County for the top. And I want to point out that the gain from county Medicaid is based upon last year's actual reductions...actual figures. And it is prorated into the appropriation this year, because that could vary from year to year to some degree, based upon the number of county residents that were in a state institution. But the effect on Arthur County is 10 times the loss by the reduction in aid as to the benefit of Medicaid. Or at the other end of the group is Douglas County would benefit to the tune of \$2.5 million of less county expense, but only a reduction in their aid of 1.2 million, or a net benefit from the veto of...in excess of \$1,300,000 from other counties. It is our recommendation, that while this does not fit the criteria, that this too be overridden solely for the purposes of retaining greater equity between counties as to the impact that this veto would have.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, then Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, I had really hoped and maybe even believed that there was a remote possibility that this would be the year, kind of this year Jerusalem, you know. In other words, for the first time in modern memory the Legislature would say, okay, we are going to call the bluff, we are actually going to reduce government, we are going to go the opposite direction. But I really down deep knew it would not occur, and is not going to occur. And I know the other vetoes are going to be overridden, and maybe that is best under the circumstances now. And the reason you will not get it done, you cannot get it done, be it this year, last year, or probably next year, unless there is a major change, are two forces more powerful than any individual senator and they are, number one, geography and, number two, our system of government as it functions in the State of Nebraska which includes our constitutional limitations on what the Governor can do, making him more a figurehead than anything else, except on his line-item vetoes, and our unicameralism, our nonpartisan system.