

SENATOR SCHMIT: It is not going to work. Ladies and gentlemen, I oppose the DeCamp amendment and I ask you to consider seriously what I have said because you are going to have to face it next January.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Hall.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I'd like to call the question if I could, please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, shall debate cease? Do I see five hands? I do. Debate has...all those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, to close on the amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President and members, the dollars involved here are relatively small. The issue is relatively significant. When we debate the 300 million or whatever it is roads budget, the issue, believe it or not, is relatively small and the funds are relatively big because we know a function of government is to have roads. And the only question is how good and how many? But in this instance the question is, is the function of government, is the function of government to do what these advocacy agencies are doing? If you conclude the function of government is to do what they are doing, you have no choice but to adequately fund them and quit nickel and "diming" because our nickel and "diming" over the years has been based on the premise that they are doing something that they shouldn't do and, therefore, we're going to take part of their money away. Either they are doing their job and it is a proper government function or it is not a proper government function and now is the time to face up to it. I'm arguing the case that they are not a necessary and probably not even a proper government function. And in doing so I am not suggesting that blacks have not received mistreatment, that Indians have not received abuse or that women have not had unequal treatment and had needs to get more rights over the years. I am just simply saying, creating independent, essentially independent lobbying organizations with government funds is not the function of government and that essentially these groups are independent lobbying groups. Now, if you disagree with me, if you disagree with me, then fund them properly and get them out of your way because they are taking