

March 18, 1974

SENATOR PROUD: I don't...I don't...I will save mine for closing. Is there anybody else want to speak.

PRESIDENT: Just a moment. Senator Syas wishes to speak.

SENATOR PROUD: I'll defer then for the closing.

SENATOR SYAS: Well, this is the first time probably in 22 years I've ever said anything concerning railroads. I happen to be an employee of the railroad, so I'll let you take that one, as all you want to. But there's a few things that I think this Legislature should know. I don't know too much about this amendment. But I do know this. That the railroads are controlled differently than the interstate commerce. They are controlled differently from the federal government than the state government. And let me cite to you a few things. In the first place our negotiating act. We go by the Railroad Act between the national and the federal. We have to negotiate Federal. Not locally, but one railroad, you negotiate them all, if you fail to reach an agreement on a labor situation, the federal government issues a time schedule to try to bring you together under federal law. They also appoint a board of arbitration under federal law again. I'm trying to show you some difference. My pension, the retirement is what ...railroad Retirement Act, under federal law. And not state law, or anyother law...Federal law. A closed shop, which has prevented in the State of Nebraska, by constitution does exist. On the railroads by federal law, by congressional act because they are interstate commerce. The railroads have a closed shop on labor. Everybody has to belong. I'm not going to argue the merits of that one, because I don't particularly care too much sometimes about it, but the fact it is in the State Constitution does not take control of Interstate Commerce. Even our holidays...Now get this, Senator Rasmussen passed a bill here to give us a certain holidays. I'll tell him right now in a very kind manner that the federal law on the railroads we will have our holiday the 27th. Just like we had the other holiday on the federal day. So there is differences in Senator Proud is right. That there are certain things that this state can't do anything about. That are controlled nationally. And I would certainly hate, and I'm not sure about this, but I'm certainly skeptical about, since the federal government does operate the railroads through ICC that we might jeopardize some things in this bill if we don't exempt somethings on the railroad, and as I say, that the first time in 22 years that I've ever taken the floor on any bill other than voting, but I just wanted to illustrate to this senate that there is differences in how railroads and controlled and operated and the rules they live by other than what b usineses are controlled by that are in the confines of the state.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY; Mr. President and members of the Legislature. A question of Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Carpenter, if there is any justification in Senator Prouds thoughts. Can you think of anyother industries or any other groups that would be so situated. Are the railroads the only ones involved.