

February 5, 1976

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Do you know of any other private committee that can authorize the setting of tax supported salaries and the hiring of tax supported consultants? Anywhere else in the government, state, federal, local? Where you have a volunteer committee that has that power to expend money like that?

SENATOR COPE: This is not a volunteer committee in the sense that they volunteer. They are appointed if, and there's that big if, if the county board wished to do this.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright, so we're assuming that the committee is in existence, is appointed. Is there any other example in the government where you give this kind of power to that kind of committee?

SENATOR COPE: I don't know, but I'd like to continue and repeat exactly what Senator Anderson said.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright, on page 6, Section 11 did I misread that when I said "the Convention and Visitor Committee may contract with any person, association, corporation to carry out the provisions of this act? Would that allow this committee to, for example, contract with the Hilton Hotel in Omaha and authorize them to expend monies to promote conventions?

SENATOR COPE: Well first of all,....

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes or no, Senator Cope?

SENATOR COPE: I'm not going to give you a yes or no answer.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: That is a yes or no question.

SENATOR COPE: Well it may be a question but it isn't my answer. The answer is that the budget has to be approved by the county board. They have to check on it after the year ends. That's the answer.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Where's that?

SENATOR COPE: It says right down on page 5, line 25 "the committee shall annually submit a report of its expenditures and activities and make recommendations to the governing body of the county which shall approve its budget as to staff and operations".

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes?

SENATOR COPE: I think that's pretty simple.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But they can expend the monies themselves, they can make the appropriations themselves all prior to that approval.

SENATOR COPE: It says that they "must approve the budget as to the staff and operation".

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK, then you would agree that the county board should have sole and exclusive control and responsibility over the expenditure of these tax funds because they're the elected....?