

February 5, 1976

SENATOR COPE: Well I certainly do, this is the whole....

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Alright, then why do you disagree with my amendment that says "the county board shall appoint and fix the compensation of such staff as it deems necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act"?

SENATOR COPE: They're going to do that when they approve the budget. I don't think it's necessary to have the amendment.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: But you don't want them to do it do you? That's why the committee is in there isn't it?

SENATOR COPE: I know what the purpose of this is, Senator Cavanaugh. It's a delaying motion to kill the bill. I don't think it's necessary. I think we have the wording in....

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Thank you Senator Cope. We know what the purpose of the bill is, it's to create these committees to control these funds. The committees are to be controlled by the people in the industry who are going to benefit from conventions. That's how the whole bill got here. It's because the Hotel and Motel Association would not assess itself to achieve this purpose so they came to this Legislature and they got special legislation. This is the bill, 339, to promote their interests, their specific economic interests. Their own membership weren't willing to take up the burden so now they want us and the rest of the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska to take up the burden and give them a free hand as to how to spend this tax money. You people have got to be kidding yourself that this is a legitimate function of government. Every day you get up here and wail about government interfering and getting into areas of regulation in private life and serving special interest. This is exactly the most blatant example of that kind of legislation. This is not public interest legislation. This is self-service legislation designed and written to be ... to promote revenues to be controlled by a particular segment of the economy for their own benefit. Government simply cannot conduct itself that way. Government simply cannot appropriately lend itself to being used that way. This Legislature should not allow itself to be used that way.

I urge you to return this bill for this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I tried very diligently to ascertain the time we would be on Final Reading. We are now in excess of 100 minutes. I had thought it would be 70. We still have four more bills to go on Final Reading.

A year ago I asked that if bills on Final Reading, if there wanted to be amendments no matter what kind, that it would lay over a day and we could allow for the time. It's impossible to allow for the time under the conditions we're operating under this morning. So I move the previous question, that we cease debate on this issue at this time.