

March 24, 1977

LB 425, 391

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, question of Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Schmit, I've been listening to the debate here and I do notice when looking over the committee statement that Mr. Koley who is the Deputy County Attorney in Douglas County testified in opposition to this bill. Could you tell me what his complaints were; do you recall what they may have been?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Frankly, Senator, I didn't pay much attention to him because they've been bellyaching ever since we put them to work about three years ago and I didn't stick around for all of the hearing but his principle complaint, I believe, related to the fact that there was perhaps lack of cooperation between the welfare directors and county attorneys.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members of the body. Again I rise as one who has worked with this problem. I don't believe that you can turn the county attorney loose by himself to do this. I don't believe you can turn the welfare director loose to do this by themselves. I think it takes a cooperative effort with both of these departments and also the county boards. In our county, we found that at times it was better...we were better off financially at least not to prosecute or go after an individual and in other times it was necessary to go after them. I would like to ask Senator Schmit a question if he would yield.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I yield.

SENATOR KAHLE: How far reaching is this? How far would you go to find an individual that...

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator, I'd chase him to hell and back if it was necessary because if you don't make these guys pay the idea gets to be prevalent in the minds of those individuals that all they have to do is get across the state line. You have a good county out there and they have a good record, but there are some instances where we do not have that. Your county is an exceptionally good one, but the point is this. Anytime you adopt a theory that an individual is better off to be left alone rather than collect the money because it costs the county more money to collect it than not to collect it, you're making a mistake.

SENATOR KAHLE: You're on my time, Senator.

PRESIDENT: Our time is up. I'm sorry, but we have lights on and our 15 minutes has expired. We're not going to do anything with it today anyway. LB 391.

CLERK: Read LB 391. There are committee amendments by Senator Keyes Revenue Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Orval Keyes.

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