

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I believe that most people have their mind made up on this bill but various bits of philosophy have been offered on the floor about local control, whether the state ought to be limited to a 7% increase in budget and things of that sort, so before I declare my position on the bill, I am going to, well, I will declare my position right now. I am not going to vote to kill this bill, because as long as it has life, it may be of value for some other purpose, Senator Kremer, such as the speed limit on the highway or the death penalty or a number of other matters. So I am not going to vote to kill this bill, and I, perhaps, may not vote to kill any other bills this session. I just haven't made up my mind yet but I do want to deal with some of the issues that were brought up. I think it would be wise for members of the Legislature to stop demeaning the position of state government. The state is the most important part of government in this country. The states created the federal government and ceded certain powers to the federal government including the power, in some instances, to supercede what the states do. The supremacy clause of the U. S. Constitution insures that the federal government in certain areas will predominate over the state. The local governments are created by the state. It is a mistake to stand on this floor and try to equate the state with these cities, towns, villages or even the counties. The state is not a local government. The state has a responsibility which none of these other divisions of government have, and for my part, I will not stand here and have it continually stated as though everybody in this body believes it or doesn't know any better that the state can be equated with the local unit of government. It cannot. And if it is determined by the state that the localities are not properly discharging their duties, there is a responsibility on the state to intervene. The localities have no rights other than those given to them by the state. A locality is not the people. The people have certain human rights which cannot be infringed by any government. Even the Bill of Rights in the U. S. and the State Constitution do not bestow rights on people. It acknowledges these rights and protects them against infringement by the government. Certain rights of the people are not in the government's hands to give, to expand or to do anything else with legitimately but there are certain powers that local governments have because they are given by the state. When our thinking on these issues is fuzzy and hazy, we make all kinds of ridiculous statements on this floor just to get back at one of the senators who has said something or introduced a bill that we don't like. In the meantime, state government is demeaned and I would venture to say there is some lobbyists out there smart enough to see what is being done, so when they want to lobby you on a bill, they said, well, you won't cut the state's budget. The state gives money back to the localities. The state has duties placed on it that none of these localities have. Senator DeCamp was talking about the Governor changing. Senator DeCamp, the nature of matter, the nature of matter is to change. There is nothing static about matter. When you get to the level of electrons, neutrons and protons, then there is constant unceasing motion. Politicians share that trait with matter. It is the nature of a politician to change. What appeared expedient today did not appear