

April 5, 1978

LB 446

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator DeCamp, this in effect then, means in the last two years we will have increased the payment by 65%. Is that correct?

SENATOR DE CAMP: I don't have the exact numbers. What we did last year, Senator Kelly, as you know made substantial increases as I understand to compensate for a lack of activity for a long time and major inflation factors and this year we're trying to get it up to, well considerably less, quite frankly than a lot of other states but something that we feel is reasonable and livable. I don't know whether the magic number is fifty five, sixty, sixty five, seventy, eighty, whatever. I suggested sixty five because I felt that in my mind was fair and it's somewhere in between the two warring sites.

SENATOR MURPHY: I wish we didn't have to put our legislative salaries on the ballot and could just let you adjudicate them, but I do think that 65% in two years is just a little bit much and accordingly I will have to oppose the bill period.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit moves to amend the DeCamp amendment by changing one hundred sixty five to one hundred fifty where it's used in the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as Senator Murphy has outlined, there has been a substantial increase. I recognize that the employee has some problems also. I feel, however, as he has pointed out, that last year we did make a very substantial improvement in the benefits. I feel that perhaps you have that money in the bank so to speak at the present time. I think an additional \$10 is not exactly out of line. I guess I don't know exactly where the votes are but I think that this amendment of mine is a realistic approach to the problem and frankly, it's an attempt to find out what the sentiment of the body is. I want to recognize that there are some legitimate reasons why this amount should be improved upon but there comes a time also I believe then we have to address the problem of where the fund is coming from and what it is going to do and I would hope that I frankly don't think Senator DeCamp has the votes for his amendment, he may have, but I would think that mine is another attempt to approach it part way and therefore I would move the adoption of my amendment to the DeCamp proposal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Brennan.

SENATOR BRENNAN: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, that \$10 increase is what you call band aid legislation. Last year we came out of Committee with a bill for \$150. It was defeated on the floor because the votes of one of the members that put it out. I've requested when this was suggested a week or two ago, I requested from the rate setting bureau in New York, the cost, increase in rates because of \$10. It's almost half of what the cost would have been for a \$181 or \$187. As the maximum increases, increase in rates is less percentagewise. I would say this \$165 would cost

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