

March 6, 1979

LB 105

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR CULLAN: ...would, therefore, encourage them to continue operating that branch rather than not to, although again I don't think the shift if going to be that significant.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very well. I am concerned I guess because I look at it different than you do. I am also concerned that we perhaps accept the railroad figures on valuations, we accept the railroad figures on the density traffic volume and I think we should take a good look at that and see just how accurate and factual those figures are that the Board of Equalization uses. I am afraid that they would cause us deep concern if we knew how outdated they were but, Senator Cullan, I would be glad to defer until Select File and in the meantime I would like to visit with you some more about the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members of the body, I, too, would like to ask Senator Cullan a question or two if he would yield?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, I will.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Cullan, will this increase or decrease the taxes that are now being paid by the railroads? I think you have answered this but I want to ask you one more time.

SENATOR CULLAN: It is difficult to say what the effect will be. I can't make a guess because it does not increase the overall value of the railroad. It changes the way that that value is distributed to the extent that there would be higher mill levies likely in areas where there is increased traffic. There could be some slight increase in railroad taxes as a result of this bill. Other legislation will have a significant effect increasing the value of railroad taxes. This one, I believe, would not.

SENATOR KAHLE: I guess I am concerned because in my workings with government before the railroads have always resisted tax, and when this bill was heard, apparently the railroads did not resist or complain about this change. One of the other things that I guess that bothers me is that we know the railroads are doing an enormous amount of work in Nebraska now in order to handle the coal shipments and it would bother me if they weren't going to pay more tax. If I improve my