

May 7, 1979

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groups are going to be severely hurt by this particular ton mile tax. Every bit of grain that is shipped by rail will then have to pay the tax. What do you think that will do to the price of your grain? It is going to cost you that much more to get it to market and instead of having a ten cent differential, it will have to have a higher differential and the producer of the grain, the guy that does the shipping is the one that is going to pay the cost. As far as this particular issue is concerned, you all know that we did not have a public hearing on this issue. I'm going to ask that you return the bill. We will strike the DeCamp ton mile tax amendment and then proceed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President, I urge you to reject the Goodrich amendment and I will offer what I feel is a supremely reasonable compromise on this subject. But let us go back and study just a little bit the history. Do you remember it all started, first of all you can't do this. It is unconstitutional. Railroads said that this is unconstitutional and you just can't think of doing such a thing. Second they said, what in the blazes are you yacking about railroad crossings and over passes and all of this? That is the highway people, that is your problem, we run railroad trains, we don't worry about that. And, they handed out literature. You have got literature that says, you know, that has nothing to do with the railroads. Federal studies and everything else showing this. This isn't the railroads problems these trains going up and down. But, then when we found out that we could do this Constitutionally, when we found out that there are additional studies showing that this is going to increase about 600% by 1985 and finally when we put the tax on and found it Constitutional and got it adopted, then the railroads came around for the first time and believe it or not they called me the night after this tax went on they called me long distance and they said, maybe we haven't been approaching this right. Maybe you do have a point. What we would like to do, and the letter I entered into the Journal. I entered the letter in the Journal. I made them put it in writing. In which they, every railroad in the state, in writing, in your official records recognizes (1) that they are responsible, (2) that it is going to increase dramatically and (3) that they want to help pay for this. They finally, I guess God shone the light on them or something with this tax hanging over them. Anyway they decided, yes we do want to work out something. The way we want to do it, the way we want to do it, they said, is we want you to repeal that tax now and between now and next January we will come out with a solution as to how we are going to pay for it. Suggestion,

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