

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to oppose the Goodrich motion. For many years people have recognized that trains played a very important part in the development of the country and much land was set aside for their use in recognition of the valuable input of the railroad toward the development of the country. However, this relationship is now changing. As far as the rural areas are concerned we are not getting the service from the trains and the railroad industry that we once did. This state is becoming a coal train pipeline. We...the best advantage that we have now is the opportunity to sit there at the rail crossings and wait until the coal trains go by. Now, if the railroads would sincerely try to provide grain cars to ship our grain from the small elevators with the same enthusiasm that they use in providing coal cars, I think that we would have a lot more sympathy towards the railroads point of view. But at this point that is not true. I suggest that this tax would serve Nebraska well and I urge that Senator Goodrich's motion be defeated.

PRESIDENT: Before we call on the next speaker the Chair would like to introduce from Senator Simon's district some 21 seventh graders and two teachers from the Waterloo High School Waterloo, Nebraska. Robert Simpson is the guidance director up here in the north balcony. Would they just kind of wave to us because they are all kind of looking over the edge here I think. Good morning, welcome to the Legislature. The Chair would now recognize Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I want to support Senator DeCamp and his effort. Senator Goodrich mentioned the hauling of grain and I can visualize the percentages in my head as to how many...how much percentage will be grain and how much will be coal and you see one train after the other with 125 car loads of coal going through our state as compared to probably two or three trains a day, at most, that might carry grain. I think that we need to look at this and I think that Senator DeCamp has a good idea of putting the railroads on the fire, so to speak, during this interim period and trying to work with them. I think that it is absolutely ridiculous that we let this coal roll through our state and have all of the problems that the railroads are going to have with crossings and all of the things that we are going to have to suffer the problems of waiting for the trains, being run over by them and everything else, without having any income at all from that process. So I support Senator DeCamp in this effort. Thank you.