

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. President. I do support the DeCamp amendment for two reasons. To answer Senator Powers' question, the estimate of the ton-mile tax is about two million dollars. The estimate of over and underpasses that we need across this state is about maybe anywhere from twenty to forty. The estimate for each over-underpass is anywhere between one and four million dollars. Therefore, we do have a problem, a fiscal problem. The ton-mile tax, therefore, would not really pay for one over or underpass. I also support the DeCamp amendment to hold for one year because the Public Works Committee in Congress right now is discussing a bill which might contribute about 250 million federal dollars to those states that have the crossing problems in those small towns where coal trains go from Wyoming across our state. Therefore, I think it is a better move to wait...what is going to happen, and address that problem again next year.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald, do you wish to be recognized on the DeCamp amendment?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker and members, John, would you answer a question for me? What has the railroads done in the first year since this bill was passed?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, Fitz, good question. We passed the bill and it was to go into effect July 1 of this upcoming year, July 1, 1980. The understanding stated on the floor put into the record with letters was that between now and then they would sit down and try to come up with an alternate proposal of raising money. Additionally, for the first time, they recognized they had a responsibility. They recognized in writing and made it a matter of legislative record that they had an obligation to help solve the problem. Now previous to this time all their official publications or attitude, all their official stuff was, hey, look, you know, we were here first, make the cars solve their own problems. For the first time they have recognized that they have got to help out. So what did they do? Well, they brought in proposal number one. I claimed that proposal number one, and I think Senator George would back me up on this, I said, hey look, you know, this is pages and pages of mumbo-jumbo, but it doesn't...it doesn't actually solve any of the problems. It doesn't give us any more money. It just says, well we will help you get money from the feds and we will help you do this, but it did not cost them any money. I think when they have some cost involved, they