

March 23, 1981

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to use it. The county must have money. They must have the tax money paid. So I would like to get on and get a... I would like to leave it at 16. If we can't do that, why 15 is next best.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle. We have Senator Kahle, Senator Vickers, Senator Nichol, Senator Johnson, Senator Burrows, Senator Hoagland. I remind you that we will stay in session most of the afternoon. Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I want to talk to the Beutler amendment only at this time, and I think it would be a terrible mistake to let those off the hook that have deliberately or intentionally or unintentionally left their taxes unpaid. And I know in my own county I did a little research on it when we passed the 16 percent last year, or year before, and asked the County Treasurer what was happening, but, as she asked me, she said, do you think I should notify all those with delinquent taxes as of July 1st, or whenever it was, that their interest is going to be 16 percent? I said, well, I certainly think it would be mighty neighborly of you to do that. So that is exactly what was done in our county, and you would be surprised at the amount of tax money that came in. Now, some people say, well, you blackmailed them into paying their taxes. But these generally were not the poor people. They were people that had plenty of money, they just were using the county's money to run their businesses with and with a lot less interest than they were having to pay at the bank. So I would be very much opposed in splitting that out at 6 percent and 11 percent and then 15 or 16 percent, depending on what time the tax was levied. I think it would be a nightmare. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I believe there is a little bit of misunderstanding perhaps as to what we are discussing here with the amendment that Senator Beutler and myself and Senator Hoagland are offering. First of all, I think it needs to be understood that what we are talking about is a penalty, a penalty that we assess against people that for one reason or another have not paid their taxes. As Senator Cope indicated, the counties need the money, the various other taxing entities that rely on taxes. Obviously, that's true. But I think we are also failing to remember that they do have other mechanisms to collect those taxes. They are not going to collect them perhaps for a while. What we are talking about is a penalty that we assess for those people that haven't paid their taxes promptly. Eventually they