

**SPEAKER MARVEL:** Senator Nichol and then Senator Dworak.

**SENATOR NICHOL:** Senator DeCamp, may I ask a question of you, please? While he is returning to his seat I am in a position that nobody else is in and that is that my area loses more money than anybody else but that is beside the point. The reason is that we had many cattle in the county at the time we created this formula in 1977-1978 and since that kind of property is no longer in the mat of the question and we can forget about that. The question is this, Senator DeCamp. Let's supposing in my county we appraise at what we think is a reasonable amount and in your county you choose to appraise at half of what it really should be. We want to raise a hundred dollars on a piece of property in my house and a hundred dollars on your house in your county. Simply because my valuation is high we have half the mill levy to multiply by that we have in your area to raise the hundred dollars. Does it make any difference in the formula whether or not a county is appraised at a high or low level?

**SENATOR DeCAMP:** I think you are touching on the one thing I did bring up now, the equalization issue. You can do whatever you want. Of course you have the Constitution to deal with separately so on and so forth, but if you are having a completely artificially low value, you are cheating yourself out of these particular funds is what it amounts to. But that is kind of your choice. With respect to the other question you raised about your county losing more, Scottsbluff, on a per capita basis that is not true. On a per head basis I think my county of Holt gets hurt as bad as anybody because it is a half a million dollars but we don't have but a fraction of the people there.

**SENATOR NICHOL:** The other portion of the question is this. Can we artificially raise the valuation in my county and therefore, get a larger percentage of the money?

**SENATOR DeCAMP:** Well, then again, you not only run into the Constitution but you run into a whole host of state laws that make you...first of all they give Bernice if you value her property too high, they give her all kinds of rights to redress. It makes the officials guilty of everything. Artificially high values above anything of actual value is literally a crime.

**SENATOR NICHOL:** Okay, thank you, Senator DeCamp. I don't necessarily oppose this bill the way it sits. I was just wondering about that situation. You have answered the question. Thank you.