

unfunded liability. But what has happened here is that the cities under our direction have established retirement programs for their police and fire officers and probably for other employees, but they haven't been putting enough money into those programs to make certain the money will be there when these officers finally get at retirement age, and thus when you get a bill like LB 387 it continues again as a tremendous goad or a prod to the cities to put their house in order. Otherwise, as Senator DeCamp does indicate, it will all come down like a pack of cards because the money hasn't been committed to these programs, and it just has to be done. It is like buying life insurance. You have got to meet that premium payment so that eventually when you do pass on the money will be there. The cities have got to meet the premium payments so when the officers retire the money will be there. Now I have not read the current plan proposed by the League of Municipalities. I do know I had some conversations with its lobbyists a year ago at which time they told me that the plan was a very exciting and bold plan. It would be a good plan for all communities. But I don't know whether that plan will succeed in this body and not knowing that, I think the only fair and right thing for us to do is to keep this bill alive and to move the bill along because this is a just and proper bill....

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON:for overall retirement programs for city police officers and firemen. And for that reason, I would oppose the return of the bill to committee for further study.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol, and really the noise level is very high and I will see if I can hear Senator Nichol right now before I pound the gavel. So go ahead, Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will try not to make too much noise, but Senator Vard Johnson, I would like to ask you a question since you are headed for the outside. Senator Vard Johnson, you explained it very clearly. Thank you. My question is...no not the question, I haven't asked you yet, but with the 7 percent lid imposed on cities, how do you propose that they meet this obligation?

PRESIDENT: Senator Vard Johnson, will you respond?