

talking about here. Nebraska's communities grew up around the railroads. Most communities have railroads going right through them. The length of trains these days and, again, the materials that they are carrying dictate that for the protection of our communities that there be certain minimum safety standards and I think Senator DeCamp is right in saying that that is not something that should be haggled over at the bargaining table behind closed doors of labor and management. That is something that is a public issue. It is a concern to all of us and it is a concern to our communities. For that reason I oppose the kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Higgins, and then after that I am going to recognize Senator Fowler to close. Senator Higgins. Go ahead, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I don't think we Senators are any different from the voters. We have short memories. I just want to revive your memory a little bit. When the railroads first started to build across our prairies they took a lot of farmland. And now you have all seen in the past few years that those trains that were originally built for the good of the people in order to transport you from the little towns into the big cities like Chicago and Los Angeles and everything, how many trains stop in your little towns today? And what year was it, Senators, especially you rural Senators, what was the year when your grain rotted in the bins because the railroads said they didn't have enough trains to haul your grain to market for you? What have the railroads really done for you? They have deserted a lot of their tracks but they are not giving up their mineral and oil rights, are they? They are just leaving you with those tracks to go over every day. This Senator has a reputation in Omaha of never, ever having been supported as a Democratic County Chairman or when I ran for Legislature by any union ever. So I am not up here fighting for the unions. I am just up here to remind you what the trains have done to you, and if you want to do something for them, this is the time to show them how much you appreciate your empty depots and maybe next year they will leave your grain rotting in the bins and tell you they don't have enough trains to haul it like they did a number of years ago. That is all I want to do is just revive your memories a bit. Thank you, Senators.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me...Senator Clark is closing.