

April 23, 1975

LB243A

While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, the Chair has signed LB96, 226, 252, and 401.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move to request of the Governor that he return LB588 to the Legislature for further consideration. Signed, Senator Marsh.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I am requesting that this body ask to have 588 returned from the Governors office for the following specific amendment. (read amendment) This will accomplish a number of things, but until we have the bill back we are not able to do it. I move that we ask for the return of LB588. I have had a communication from the Governor and he is willing for us to do this.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, Senator Marsh, would you explain briefly so that we don't have to go flying through our books, so we know what you want to do.

SENATOR MARSH: Section four is the section which has to do with the 1% funds of the total personal services budget for the increase of salaries above 5% and above the \$468 additional per year. Rather than having the total budget bill being vetoed and not having sufficient number of votes to over ride the veto when the bill has not been passed with the Emergency Clause, it would be much better to have the flexibility of using the additional wording in the budget bill so that the dollars which the Governor will OK are there, the increase can be given to state employees as of the first of July and we can work toward a merit plan next year with the wording that is in the bill. Since it is not feasible this year according to our financial situation, at least we would have the flexibility to make plans in the intervening year rather than have the total bill vetoed. Does that answer your question.

PRESIDENT: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, if we want efficient state government, we do need a merit system. This section would strike the merit system. Therefore I am opposed to this motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Mr. President, a question of Senator Marsh. Senator, if the Governor vetoes will he veto the total bill or just section 4.

SENATOR MARSH: He does not have a choice on this. He has to veto the entire bill.

SENATOR MURPHY: You don't feel that the Legislature will support you in the total bill?