

February 12, 1976

can now I would be happy if you would see me and we'll try and make arrangements for you. My friends in North Platte have assured me there will be no lobbying tonight, no arm twisting in any form. We just simply want you to meet the kind hearts and the gentle people of North Platte.

CLERK: Mr. President, a new bill, LB 673A. (Read title).

PRESIDENT: LB 176.

CLERK: Read title to LB 176. Mr. President, there are committee amendments by Senator Rasmussen's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rasmussen.

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. The only thing that the Committee amendment does is change the date. I would ask to have you support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion? The question is the adoption of the Committee amendment. Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, 21 not voting. Now, Mr. President, the next.... There are two amendments offered by Senator Fowler, the introducer of the bill. One is to add a new Section 2 on page 3 to amend one as follows: (Read amendment offered by Senator Fowler found on page 650 of the Legislative Journal).

SENATOR FOWLER: Vince, I think the other amendment I put up does the same thing.

CLERK: Well it may. It appears to.

SENATOR FOWLER: Whichever is easiest for you languagewise. If I could explain the bill and also the amendment at the same time, it might be best. LB 176 was introduced last year. It was heard by the Government Committee. It's a bill to raise the minimum that we pay state employees. It contains a section, Section 4, that would then raise all other state employees salaries according to their current steps on the state pay plan.

The amendment that I've put forward, the language in Section 2, since this bill was introduced last year, the dates were based on, of course, last year. I need to change some of the dates. The increase was based upon what had been the wage in 1974. Obviously, we've passed an appropriations bill since then. There was a salary increase. I'm changing, also, some of the figures.

If I could explain the amendment, what it would provide for is that the bill would provide an 8½ percent increase for state employees in their wages. I would stress this is 8½ percent across the board for all employees on the pay plan. Now this would create a starting wage of \$2.60 an hour for our state employees. There are state employees that now start at jobs at less than that.