

May 12, 1983

LB 617, 234, 234A,
469, 607, 608

the rationale for it. This bill as you know is tied to LB 269, the judges salary bill. I have received a letter from a judge, I'll not give his name because he wrote the letter as a personal letter, not to be distributed. But it is his feeling that tying these two bills together is not a good thing and the judges ought not seek to underwrite a salary by raising court costs. That no justification for increasing these costs has been presented and it is clear that the only reason is to try to underwrite that salary increase. His feeling, according to his letter, was that if court costs are to be raised to increase anybody's salary it should only be the employees of the court and not the judges. He doesn't even believe that but he is saying if you are going to raise the court cost for that purpose. There has never been undertaken a study to show the need to raise these costs. Senator Pirsch had shown me a sheet that she had prepared which has demonstrated down through the years how these costs have continued to be raised. There is no rational basis for these increases. But they have been steadily rising. This one, is a utilitarian effort to try to get the legislature to give the judges a salary increase to which they are entitled. I am in favor of them obtaining a salary increase, but I am not in favor of doing it in this fashion. The court costs should not be tied in any way to the amount of compensation received by the judges. You should not give them an incentive to rule one way or the other based on financial considerations. Now, I hope that I have made clear what it is that I'm doing. If you have any questions about the amendment as drafted and how it would operate, I am prepared to answer any of those questions. But I have told you as briefly and directly as I can why I am opposed to the Schmit amendment which raises court costs in a haphazard random fashion for the purpose of underwriting a salary increase for the judges because it is felt in the Governor's office that if this is done then the Governor can sign a pay increase bill for the judges. I think all of that is improper. That is my presentation and I hope you will return LB 617 for the purpose of attaching the amendment which I have just explained to you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Cullan is next, however Senator Cullan just before you do that, while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I propose to sign and do sign LB 234, 234A, 469, 607 and 608. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, let me rise in opposition to Senator Chambers motion. I think that the increase and the action of the legislature previously was appropriate and I