

May 23, 1983

LB 629

my opinion, to say to an employee, if I have money later I will pay you more. Since talking with state employees in my area a year ago, they were very unhappy with this sort of an arrangement. They like to have something definite. Yes, you are going to do it. No, you are not going to do it. Not this wishy-washy thing as if we have the money we will pay you something more. I think it is very poor policy to start with and this is just an auction that we have started into here and I hope we knock it off pretty quick.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Marsh, followed by Senator Fenger, followed by Senator Chambers.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I do rise to support the proposal for you must be realistic. If it didn't go before when we were saying it would be, then at least this is something better than nothing and the political reality is the state employees deserve an increase in salary. This is a mechanism that may have enough votes to produce that which is desired. It is better than nothing. It isn't the ideal. It isn't what I would wish. It isn't what I would desire. But all of the employees deserve some consideration by this body even if it is not in the form that Senator Newell likes. It isn't in the form I like either, Senator Newell, but it is something and right now we have nothing. I will be voting for it. I hope more of you will consider carefully that a 5% raise in a total of 24 months does not sound like this is an extravagant body. I can justify that in my legislative district because those people are reasonable people. Remember, you are not paying taxes when you are out of work on sales and income which are the state taxes. Correction, you are not paying income taxes when you are out of work. Yes, we have problems with unemployment. Yes, we have problems with multitudes of things. But when have we not given some type of raise? Last year was the lowest raise that has been given since I have been in the Legislature and it was disgraceful. I urge your support of this last measure. It isn't ideal but it is something, and it seems to me that employees would rather have something than nothing.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you, Mr. President. I have stayed out of this issue all afternoon and I am mixed here but in the end I am going to have to oppose this motion but I am going to oppose it for a different reason than anyone has brought up this afternoon. I heard nothing today that proposes cutting the umbilical cord between state employees and employees of the University system. I think Senator Kilgarin