

February 1, 1973

(Start Belt #5)

I think that the, I would like to explain to this body a little bit, if there is no second to Senator Carpenter's motion, I'm seconding it.

SPEAKER: There is a second.

SENATOR CARSTENS: I'd like to call to your attention that this legislature cannot function without a smaller group such as the Executive Board to take on day to day housekeeping jobs that come up. Now I was, I have been here in this legislature for, this is the start of my ninth year, and it soon occurred to me and came to my attention shortly after the legislature adjourned each session that there was nothing that made most people happier than to see us go home for more reasons than one, and one of them was it could back to the old ways and do as they pleased. Now one of the most frustrating things that I ever got into was a few years ago, we approved this body, this legislature, by a big majority, approved a wage raise in the budget, in the appropriations bill, which would give \$300.00 wage raise to each employee on certain levels and that would be generally the low levels of employee, and this was to be a raise that was appropriated, the money was appropriated for it by this legislature, and it was included specifically in the budget on the basis of \$300.00 for each of the employees qualified. No sooner had we adjourned sine die when July 1 came around and the start of the new fiscal year when the raise was to go into effect, and I soon found out because I have quite a number of state employees in my district as most of you others have, and I soon found out that the state, that the \$300.00 a year raise was being used by those in charge, not to give to each employee, but to employees of their selection, meaning specifically that some employees got nothing and other employees got double, and when I tried to do something about this, called this to the attention of backs of the legislature that our specific directions and appropriations were not only being flaunted but totally ignored on a matter as important as this, and I found out that there is a sort of a sleeping pachyderm situation in this legislature once it adjourns. You can't get anything done because you can't get to anybody, who can take the necessary action with the proper authority to do something. Now at that time the legislative Executive Board was too small and they were not, no specific direction in the statute as to what the board was supposed to do, and this is the reason that I brought about and then brought into this legislature last year a bill to change the composition and makeup of the Executive Board, not only to make it more representative, but also to give it powers that it had not previously had, now one of the simplest pow-, one of the simplest and one of the basic elemental things that any organized body must have, it must have a group in charge of housekeeping. Now for example when we, prior to the start of the session somewhere in October or November, we have to hire a staff, and somebody has to go down and meet and make the arrangements to hire the employees, and I think they have done a very good job, I'm very much impressed with the staff that we have assembled here this year because we have a built in handicap in assembling a staff, and that is we only have part-time sessions, but nevertheless the job was done. Now the other matter is something like the, I didn't even think about this desk set being anything of any importance, we all have to sign enumerable things every day, we need this equipment and it's of insignificant, it doesn't mean anything, and we ought to let the Executive Board do these things in their discretion. Now with eight mem-, with nine members on the Executive Board now, plus the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who is an ex officio member and serves a useful function, that means we have ten members on the