

March 1, 1973

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Do you subscribe to Senator Lewis' suggestion that we put all these other salaries in the statutes?

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think Senator Lewis' suggestion is that we should have some system of uniformity, so that all of the salaries are delt with -

SENATOR LUEDTKE: His suggestion didn't go to uniformity, it went to the fact that we would sit around and talk about all the salaries of all these people at this level, do you want to do that? We used to do that Senator Anderson, I was, when I first came to the legislature we did do that and I want -

SENATOR ANDERSON: I really don't hear Senator Lewis saying that we're necessarily going to vote on everyone of these salaries, I think what he is saying is that we should treat all of them the same and that they should all be set on the say way, now whether this is done by a commission or what I don't think this has been answered.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: If you put them in the statutes you're going to have hearings on everybody's salary and this body is going to argue just like we are on this salary every last one of them, and believe me that is quite a task.

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think what Senator Lewis may be suggesting is that we simply don't have the detailed information available to us that we can sit down and set everyone of these salaries.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, I wish to differ with you, I think Senator Lewis was saying that he thought that this was ridiculous that we were even thinking about doing this, that we ought to put this into the same position as every other board and committee that they set the salary.

SPEAKER: Senator Marvel. Is Senator Marvel in the Chamber?

SENATOR MARVEL: I'd like to make two or three comments which probably start two or three other arguments, but that's alright. I think first of all, that the legislature, regardless of how we have been maligned in the past or will be in the future, should be considered as a board of directors of state government. Therefore, as such we need to set general standards in regard to salaries. This does not mean that we possibly can't, can set each and every individual's salary, but we need to set some kind of standard so the people who are doing the same kind of job, get the same kind of pay. Now part of this, answer will come to you in the form of discussion on the budget bill because in the Governor's budget bill there is a discussion of a pay plan, which also includes benefits for state employees, and this pay plan while it isn't perfect, at least begins to approach what some of you want to approach and that is that people doing like jobs get like pay. Now I'd like to make one or two other statements, which can't be solved at this time, but I'd like to make them anyway. First of all it appears to me that in some of these top positions, which are basically management positions, we insist or national regulations also insist on putting in technicians. I for the life of me can't understand why you need a doctor as a head of the health department. You need somebody to manage the system, we are short on doctors in this state and elsewhere, we are short on psychiatrists, so what do we do, we turn around and insist that these skilled people who spent years gaining their skills turn around and sit there, doing paper work. Now to me and I agree that a doctor certainly can earn more than thirty thousand dollars a year, but why insist that an M.D. be the head of the health department and have to sit there doing that kind of paper work, to me is a waste of talent, and I have another comment I want to make, which is probably is going to