

March 5, 1973

at. You might say it was pulled out of a hat or anyway you want to do it but this was the figure we settled on. I think that we have a chance of getting a wage increase that's needed, as you all know, and, of course, \$675.00 I'll be first to say isn't enough by a long ways but it has been successful going this route and so that's the figure we are using. I imagine on this \$675.00 there might be some amendments or some discussion but I'll move that we adopt the Committee amendments.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Whitney speaking on just the Committee amendments.

SENATOR WHITNEY: I want to ask Senator Syas a question, please.

SPEAKER: Will you yield?

SENATOR SYAS: Yes.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Are you quite certain this is not a conflict of interest bill?

SENATOR SYAS: What's the next amendment?

SPEAKER: Any further discussion of the amendments? The question is shall the amendment be adopted. All in favor say aye. Those opposed say no. So ordered. The amendment is adopted. Are there other amendments?

CLERK: Yes. On Page 3, line 13 after the word "salary" insert the words "increase of approximately sixty-three per cent from the present level of four hundred dollars per month to six hundred seventy-five dollars per month"; and strike the rest of the line and line 14. Signed, Senator DeCamp.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the first reaction of most Senators who read this amendment...

SPEAKER: Senator DeCamp, take your hand off of the mike because that makes it ring. Thank you, that a boy OK.

SENATOR DeCAMP: The first reaction of most Senators who read this amendment will be to say, "Well, this will make sure the bill will be killed or if it is put on the ballot it wont pass." You see, what this amendment does, it explains very clearly to the public exactly what we are doing. You are being passed out right now a copy of the amendment and the amendment says that what we are doing is increasing the Legislative salary approximately sixty-three per cent from the present level of \$400.00 per month to a new level of, I think, \$675.00 or whatever figure was arrived at. Now, in the past, there have been probably, according to the legislative researchers who checked on this for me, there have been about five or seven attempts, I can't recall exact, to increase Legislative salary, and it was discovered, I guess by Senator Syas, that the only way increases could be obtained by this body or, at least, the only way this body felt they could obtain increases was by in effect tricking the public into thinking they were voting against a raise when they were, in fact, voting for a raise, and that is the principle behind the existing bill as it is amended and before my amendment. The language is, "The Legislature shall receive a salary not to exceed" In other words, the theory is that the people will think they are actually limiting us to something instead of giving us an increase. Now, it seems to me in this most delicate of all matters, at least as regards us, in which there is a potential

(End of Belt #4)