

March 3, 1973

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I had really rather hated to do this, but I'm going to any way, to clearly illustrate the real purpose of the amendment in the language it is, and the real purpose is to deceive the public. Now there have been objections made that the real reason that they are opposed to this, stated as it is, is that it doesn't allow flexibility, then I'm perfectly willing to allow them to alter the language so that it can allow that flexibility of setting it any amount up to six hundred and seventy five, provided that they maintain in the amendment the information so that the public knows that it is a salary increase and it is a salary increase potential of up to a specific amount. Now Senator Burbach has suggested that the people really do know that we all receive four hundred dollars and that it's just a bunch of extra words. The people really do not know what we receive down here, if you were to walk out on the street and ask fifty people, in any town in Nebraska, with the possible exception of Lincoln, as to what Senators receive, I'll bet you wouldn't find ten out of the fifty that know exactly how much per month Senators receive. You won't find ten in fifty who knows what a ninety day session means. In short the people do not know the duties of a legislator or the salaries of the legislator or whether legislators are being adequately compensated. Senator Murphy pointed out the fact that they only receive an equal of about fifteen cents per person. I'm in complete agreement with Senator Murphy, they don't know and it is very cheap, and the Senators do receive a salary raise, but why don't we make an attempt just one time to play it by the book and do it honestly. Now let me ask Senator Syas this, does he believe if a lot of people and by that I mean a lot of people, voted for the last salary increase, because they thought they were voting to stop any increase and were limiting us, and hasn't he in fact stated that on several occasions?

SPEAKER: Senator Syas, do you care to respond?

SENATOR SYAS: I don't care to, but I will. I can't tell you what each individual did when he went to vote, the way the bill is, it says not to exceed

(End of Belt #5)