

March 20, 1973

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion of the Committee amendments. The question is shall the Committee amendments be adopted. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say no. So ordered. The Committee amendments are adopted. Senator Waldron, back to you.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move that LB 162 be advanced to E & R for Review. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill will raise the salary of the Court Reporters from their present level of twelve five to fourteen five. The only way that court reporters which are forty-five in this state are to...can receive a pay raise is through the Legislature. Theirs is a salary that is set by the Legislature and has been set by the Legislature, I think, since their creation. The Court Reporters are very highly competent group of individuals and their work is very important. They report everything that goes on at the trial, as you know. They must take dictation at a very rapid rate. They are very highly qualified individuals. They are very difficult to find and that is why I think they should have this salary raise. We gave them a salary raise in 1971 and this one will not go into effect until after the 90 days after this session is over, and if we do not give them a salary raise this time, then, again, they would have to wait another year or two years before we would act on it once again. I hope that we can give them this salary raise which is justified when compared to the states around us that have other Court Reporters and what they pay. I passed out a pamphlet which gives you some of the idea of the salary ranges of Court Reporters of some of the surrounding states and you can see some of them are higher and a few of them are lower than they are paid in Nebraska. We do have very fine Court Reporters in this state, and I think that can be verified by Senator Luedtke and Senator Carstens, and I think with the inflation that has been in the past that we should give them this \$2000 increase in salary. Now, that's a thousand dollars a year for the last two years because they haven't had an increase since 1971, and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have in regard to the duties of these people and why, if you question why, it's justified that we give them an 8% salary increase, I'll be happy to answer that.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the bill? Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, I do not necessarily want to object to this bill, but as I figured here it's two years now that this has been enforce, that is they get a raise in two years and that is 16% increase. That's 8% a year if I have it figured right and we have not been giving our own state employees that great an increase. So the question I have in mind and I see that Senator Waldron is busy at the moment, but I wonder if Senator Waldron would yield to a question, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Waldron, do you yield to a question?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Is there any good reason why we should be giving the Court Reporters a greater increase in salary than we are giving the state employees.

SENATOR WALDRON: That's a good question, Senator. Here is one of the main reasons, I think, we are trying to get more than...what is the average salary, 5.5%, is that what you are giving the state employees?

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, I think over a two year period it would probably be close to that, 5.5 or 6%.

SENATOR WALDRON: No, I mean over a one year period.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Well, for this coming year, we don't know what it will be yet. It will probably be around...