

May 25, 1973
(START OF BELT #4)

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, members of the legislature, I too rise to support Senator Carpenters move for over riding the Governor's veto on this very vital issue which we've discussed in a number of ways, during this legislative session. We talked about conflict of interest, we've talked about a number of other things and of course we've also talked about some of the State salaries. I would again call your attention to the fact of the list I gave you. Really there is 2 or 3 reasons to give an individual a salary and one of the most important aspects of it is of course if it is commensury with the responsibility that he has, and certainly as we look at the State officers, there is massive responsibility. They have a number of personal to supervise. They have some very important decisions to make that have a very important effect on the 5 or \$600,000,000 that we spent and I would think that we are being less than rational. If we do not accept the responsibility of at least making those salaries so that those people can live at the level that they ordinarily live or slightly below in the private sector. Now as far as the percentage increases, let me again remind you of the necessity of doing this now, because if we don't we're talking down the road another term for these four year elected offices. I think that the salaries are fair. I think it makes a liveable condition for those in high responsible positions in State government. You know, you can get somebody to take your appendix out for \$3.00 and that is generally what you get, a \$3.00 operation and I'd say that if we'd want people in good government, we want them to pay them at a decent salary, then let's say, ok, this is a business. This is a big business and those that have a responsible input on it, certainly ought to be paid at a level in which they can live, where they are accustomed. I have the same sympathies as everyone else has about our salaries and we are always griping about those, except we can't do anything, but certainly let's don't say because I have to do this for \$400, because I have to live on this salary or because of the circumstance of myself, let's make sure it applies to all other State officials. I think this is a good opportunity and the chairs waiving, I would urge you to over ride the veto. That wasn't to me.

PRESIDENT: That wasn't to you. Consider it a friendly greeting, but it was a signal to another man as, after his position in line to speak here. Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I would like to rise in support of over riding this veto, and to re-echo what Senator Lewis just said. We must keep in mind when we are discussing this particular kind of a bill. That with regard to the so called minor constitutional offices of the State of Nebraska, that salary wise, there is always a game of catch up, trying to catch up with the, with the salaries and the inflation just because you are dealing now with four year terms and this is what Senator Lewis was reminding us. In otherwords, this kind of a salary increase could not possibly go into effect until January of 1975, and then you take on to that another 4 years, that is taking you on to 1979, which is along way down the road as he said. I want to say that I think most of you are aware that I spent about 7 years as a chief deputy in one of these so called minor offices, and I'm telling you that there is a lot more work goes on in these particular offices and we've added a lot more responsibility in the last 20 years, than when I worked in one of those offices and it is an extremely important job opportunity for people to strive for in running for these offices and I think we owe it to the citizens of the State of Nebraska that they know what the salary is going to be four or five, nine years down the line and that is what we are really talking about.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Nore, then Senator Cavanaugh, then Senator Stull.