

February 15, 1974

SENATOR FELLMAN: I question whether this language does that.

SENATOR CARPENTER: If you'll allow the amendment be adopted, move it over to Select File.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Well, that's the old....someone gave a pretty good speech about that a day or so ago.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well now, you and I are friends enough that I would not do what you're thinking about to you.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Oh, I trust you, but you know you and I might be gone, Senator Carpenter, and somebody else that wants this bill might move it along that doesn't like either of us.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'll either be here or my shadow will. I think the Senator is working against the very thing he's in favor of. The court has assured me and others that the salary we've set this year will not be disturbed. Which I hope is \$14,000. It gives the court the wide discretion in the area with the local district court judge to pay these people whatever they feel they're entitled to. There may be some discrimination as there is in everything. It's the same thing in the associate judges in the county court. They now have the responsibility as I understand to be sure that the associate judges only are paid within their ability and not be given a flat salary in relationship to that which the county judge himself might be receiving.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, the Chair is between a rock and a hard place because the bill appears at this point to be controversial.

SENATOR FELLMAN: No, no, Mr. Chairman, I wouldn't call this controversial. I was....merely rose to ask a couple of questions and I now request now to know where Senator Carpenter's amendments appear in the Journal so I could see them.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I only got them this morning, Senator, and let's adopt the amendment and if the Senator will.....

SENATOR FELLMAN: I support Senator Carpenter on good faith.

PRESIDENT: Well, stand by, we've got three other people who also want to be heard on this issue. Now, wait a minute, Speaker Proud is first, Senator Kelly. And then, Senator Kelly. Speaker Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President, I'm not objecting to the, to moving the bill but I do want to point out one thing to this Body which I doubt if hardly anyone understand. There are some inequities. Some very serious inequities in this court reporting business. I would point out to the Body that court reporters are not poor people. By any stretch of the imagination. They're pretty well paid. And I have no objection to any particular court reporter but don't think for a minute there isn't some feather bedding that does go on in these courts and with court reporting because when you say \$14,000, you're talking about that reporter's salary from the State of Nebraska. But those court reporters do all kind of outside work for which they're fully paid by the litigants. And I know of a situation, I think it's in Sarpy County where the court reporter there was a reporter for the juvenile court in Douglas County. Now, the juvenile court is treated the same, I believe, for salaries and the court reporters as are the district courts. This gentleman, highly qualified, highly skilled, when the judgeship changed there, and I'm not in any way criticizing the judge, it's a political fact of life. This man lost his job and now I believe is court reporter for the county court and his salary is cut something like in half and I am told that there a couple of court reporters, man and wife, more power to them if they can make it. But they make around \$50,000 a year, no way am I objecting to this bill being