

March 8, 1974

(Start Belt #8)

will be at the top of their scale unless they move into another bracket and receive no raise. Now I realize that since that bill is passed and that was all right. But there is such a thing as the cost of living in this nation of ours has gone up a tremendous amount. I think I could quote you some figures here in the Disabled Veterans, the President of the United States asked for a 12% and a 14% retroactive to last February. President Nixon advocates as much as a 7% increase in the pay of employees. Consumer prices are at a low. But here is another thing. The February increase showed wholesale prices of 20.3 higher than a year earlier. Now we expect employees of this state to work just exactly for the same amount of money that they were getting last year if they are at the height of their pay, they have served out their seven years of apprenticeship. This 5% that Senator Marvel and Senator Whitney talked so much about is something that is already guaranteed to them in the pay scale. That is not a cost of living raise, that has nothing to do with that whatsoever. That simply says that if they are satisfactory and they improve their job ability they are eligible for a 5% increase. So when they come out and tell you that in their pay scale they are going to give 13% they are not going to give 13% they are only going to give the employee a 7% increase. When it comes down to the people who are University making 12 or 15 thousand dollars a year. They are not going to give him a 6 2/3% increase. They are going to give that employee 1 2/3% increase. Now the other day when we talked about raising this bill out of committee, and I did that for a simple purpose. Because I had been told that if this went across and the Governor vetoed it and they would bring that bill up. The things to do is make up our minds right now whether we are going to go for a decent wage increase for state employees or if we are going to leave them at exactly same pay scale as they are getting this year right now, plus \$240 which is not a fair raise, or \$300 I think they brought it up to \$300 now. They are getting to see the light just a little bit more. I think I'll quite now and wait until the people that are against this bill that are going to oppose and try to answer them.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel, Fowler and Senator Whitney.  
Turn off your lights I have you down. For your fair turn.

SENATOR MARVEL: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature we have already fought this fight, we have already recorded our votes. I respect Senator Keyes from trying once again, but I think he should be informed that this is the same battle that we've gone through once before. I so respectfully ask you to reject this amendment on the basis that we have reached, what I think is the even a fairer solution to the problem he's talking about for 1974. And when he says that everybody is guaranteed one step increase by the pay plan we go beyond this as we have already indicated and for the employees basically that he's interested in we're talking about an increase as near as I can determine in excess of what he's asking for. Now our formula that was set up includes a one step increase. 5% for everybody. And I have notified a number of employees that, if our recommendation is put into law, and they don't get this step increase. Let us know. We've had to burn a few people in the past, and we are willing to do it again. If we appropriate the money, the employees ought to get the increase, and they haven't always before, and certainly this last year was a terrible example of