

March 20, 1974

SENATOR BARNETT: I think the reason I'm asking you more than anybody else is you are here in town and you know the assault we get when they don't get a raise. Now I'm sure that there is some other Senators that get the same thing, but the Lincoln Senators are easier to get ahold of, and there is majority of state employees here and I want it perfectly clear, and I'm going to take it down and take it home as to the answers I've received from the Budget Committee today as to the intent as to when they are to get a raise. And I think some of these questions will be brought up. I can see a lot of problems down the road with this the way it's written, and I wanted these answers clear. I think you've helped a lot on your answers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis, then Senators Fowler, Nore and Marsh.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Well, Mr. President I'd like to ask a couple more questions about the $\frac{1}{2}\%$ for merit increase, and I'll direct this to anybody that likes to take it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel will probably do it.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Senator Stahmer would you, since he handled it I guess. Now this merit $\frac{1}{2}\%$ goes by agency. Right?

SENATOR STAHMER: Right.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: An agency has a hundred million dollar budget they get $\frac{1}{2}\%$ of that.

SENATOR STAHMER: You are asking about the total budget or the personnel budget?

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Of the personnel budget, I expect. Now if you do that, is the uniformity in the outstanding performance by agencies, could you have ten people in the Department of Institutions doing an outstanding job, and maybe zero in some other departments.

SENATOR STAHMER: Unfortunately, Senator it's just an attempt to try to do something half way rational. If we were to try to guess in Budget Committee whether one department had 80% meritorious, another department had 2%, we might just as well buy ourselves a crystal ball and all have a good gaze.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: All right, somehow the logic escapes me. When you've got people in one department who may be meritorious and you don't have the money to give them a merit raise, and you have people in another department who may not deserve it, but the money is there and you can damn well bet it's going to be spent, and so some guy who is breaking his back for the state is going to be in a department where you are going to have an over number of people, and you can't give him the merit raise. And on the other hand somebody else may be in another department where you don't have that kind of quality and you just have a trying to think of an alternate word. You have a messed up situation.

SENATOR STAHMER: Senator are you speaking of departments or agencies. Departments you usually are a portion of an agency. And that's the descretion between departments.