

February 8, 1979

LB 90

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 90 raises the compensation for the Oil and Gas Commission members from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a day. This was \$20.00 a day almost twenty two years ago and in order to bring it up to date they went for \$50.00. I want you to know that this is not General Fund money. This is all funded by the oil companies themselves but they have to have permission from the Legislature to do this and that is all the bill does is to raise it from \$20.00 to \$50.00 to make it in conformity with what other people are getting today for the time they go. Now it used to be they could only make \$1,200 a year and this raises it to \$2,400 I think total. That is the most they can make in a year anyway. What they do, they set on hearings for all drilling permits. They have to go through the commission. That is all it does. I will answer any questions anyone might have.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Is there any further discussion? There is a motion on the desk. Read the motion, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Merz moves to amend: (Read Merz amendment found on pages 452 and 453 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, as about a week ago I put out a little pamphlet that shows that all three of the members are now from the western part of the state. The rest of the state is not represented as of this present time. So I think we have got a little oil down in southeast Nebraska too, you know. We have had probably five hundred wells drilled in Richardson County and no representation and I think this is a little odd. So very few commissions today have less than five and I don't think this would be outrageous.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Any discussion on the Merz amendment to LB 90. The Chair recognizes Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Now the oil he is talking about in Richardson County is .06% of the oil in the State of Nebraska, .06 of 1%. The rest of it is all out in the Third District and I would also like to state to him that if the oil production transfers back east instead of west, so will the commission because they are going to be where the most wells are. The commission will not tolerate having five members on it because