

March 16, 1979

LB 379, 125

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, first I would point out that the court does have a librarian now by function. It is something I think, around a \$20,000 a year job so passage of the amendment doesn't provide a position that they do not now already have. It is true that the reporter apparently has the title in the constitution but the position is filled as it properly should be. Secondly, it seems to me that the amendment does go much broader than what the existing language is. I would suggest to you that salaries are of an interest and the striking of that language despite the fact that they can submit a budget to us but simply striking the language of setting salaries for these positions I think ought to be retained. The six year term that was mentioned is not locked in. The language immediately following that is, "unless removed sooner by the court", so they have the complete flexibility to remove at their will, even though the person is given a six year term. I guess my real concern is this. As long as I have been here there have been many constitutional amendments that came before us that there was no particular reason to vote against it. The issue was, was there any particular need to put it on the ballot. I do not see any particular need, or at least there has been none demonstrated I have heard, any particular need to put this on the ballot at this time. I firmly believe that we should keep the number of constitutional amendments on the ballot limited. Just because it doesn't hurt anything is not sufficient reason to do so. I'm not making a great emphasis about the cost of \$25,000 a piece but \$25,000 here and \$25,000 there eventually does count up. The important thing is for the credibility of this body, for we are not giving the people the opportunity to vote on a constitutional amendment. What we are really doing is recommending that it be done and I think you can give credibility to those recommendations, the number of amendments we place on the ballot, there ought to really be a demonstrated need and not just a matter of fact of something that is nice to do. I would hope that the body would vote to indefinitely postpone the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion before the house then is to indefinitely postpone LB 379. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 4 nays on the motion to indefinitely postpone, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The bill is indefinitely postponed, LB 379 indefinitely postponed. Move on to LB 125.