

April 9, 1979

LB 588

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the bill is advanced. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the next bill is LB 588.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me just a moment. The Clerk, I keep moving too rapidly. The Clerk needs to read the title.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 588. Title read. The bill was read on March 30 of this year. It was referred directly to General File.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move that LB 588 be advanced to E & R Initial. I will take a little more time for a brief description of the recommendations of the committee. This is the operating cost for the various constitutional officers. The level of appropriation recommended by the committee is \$4,357,458 which was essentially the previous exec boards request. It is modified only again by the salary policies that was recommended by the committee across the board for all state employees. In addition the bill does reappropriate the unexpended balance for three programs out of the several programs that we have and that reappropriation will be approximately \$432,000. That would be an estimated amount depending on what the amount of the encumbrances and expenditures for the remainder of this fiscal year. In the case of the Supreme Court, this is essentially a continuation budget. The only items that were specifically added over and above the general policies, one dealt with the one time expenditure of \$14,000 to provide staff for the Committee on Practice and Procedure. It was a civil code revision currently being conducted by the court. Secondly there is a \$32,700 recommended general fund appropriation which is picking up where some federal funds had been used but it is, some of it, various alternatives, it is for the purpose of some of the various alternatives the court is looking at to reduce their caseload. This particular program could be identified I think on the basis that they are attempting to provide a procedure where two sides in a lawsuit may be able to get together prior to going to the full court following the previous court cases to see if some of the differences can be resolved without the necessity of a full court, action on the full Supreme Court. This, again as I indicated, is sort of an experiment. When this one is completed, they will be evaluating it, possibly utilizing other options or developing other options for the court short of adding additional people to the court which has been discussed from time to time as one of their alter-