

April 17, 1979

LB 398

is to try to create a context in which the discussion can occur.

SPEAKER MARVEL: 45 seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much do you value the judiciary? How much of that value should be reflected in terms of dollars, and should there be an attempt now from the standpoint of setting salaries to close the gap that exists between the real judges and the semi-judges who are county and associate county judges.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit. Where did Senator Schmit go? Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to the Radcliffe, or Lewis amendments. Is Senator Lewis still here? I'd like to have him yield if he hasn't left yet.

SENATOR LEWIS: I yield to Mahoney and Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Lewis, have you taken a look at your increases? Could you give me a percentage increase with your amendments as opposed to the present salaries? Do you have an idea what those would be?

SENATOR LEWIS: I don't have those broken down in percentages. I wouldn't know if you wanted them by year-by-year percentages or when this was effective until '82. I would suspect they would meet the guidelines of the present...

SENATOR REUTZEL: Thank you, Senator Lewis. I did some quick mathematics here, subject to error of course, but I look at the Lewis amendments and we look at the Supreme Court and there's about a 23 percent increase under the Lewis amendment over their present salaries, and the District Court is the only other one I've done so far and that's roughly about a 14 percent increase, and I have a real problem with that. I am not surprised that Senator Lewis would be willing to take out Section 6 of the bill, the escalator clause, if his amendments are adopted, because what we're doing is jacking up the salaries even more and as Senator Lewis already said, we won't have to deal with this because they don't become effective until 1981, and as Senator Lewis said in his opening remarks, we won't have to deal with this again until 1982, and you can bet that after these increases take effect, we're