

April 17, 1979

LB 398

SPEAKER MARVEL: Let's see, Senator Haberman, your light is still on. Do you wish to speak? He closed. All right. Okay. The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments as amended to LB 398. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? We are voting on the committee amendments as amended to LB 398. Have you all voted? I am going to call for the vote. Senator Nichol. Record the vote.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 21 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost. What is the next item?

CLERK: Mr. President....

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Call is raised.

CLERK: ...Senator Reutzel now moves to amend LB 398 by striking Section 6.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, very simply, Section 6 is the escalator clause whereby the salaries are tied to the average in state employees, their yearly increases, and I think the numbers are changed a little bit from the committee amendments but the principle is still the same. We can say on one hand that state employees deserve raises because of inflation and that is true. Judges are affected by inflation just as much as everyone else but I think there is a big difference. The fact that we are talking about a category which is people who are making thirty and forty thousand dollars and more being touched by inflation versus someone who is making...that other state employee who is making nine or ten thousand dollars or twelve or fifteen thousand dollars and trying to raise a family and meet their responsibilities with a family. So I think if anybody is going to get a raise and automatic it should be state employees which are in that smaller category. I think we ought to relook at our priorities and take a look and see where inflation actually hurts the most. Does it hurt those who are in the bottom category most or does it hurt those who are already making thirty and forty thousand dollars every year? So, very simply, Section 6 is that escalator clause and my amendment is to take that out. Again, we have got appropriations coming out,