

April 17, 1979

LB 398

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Reutzel motion. I think with that out, the bill is in pretty good shape now. I think that we could just simply move it on. I was willing to spend less money but those who voted not to advance the committee bills, including Senator Haberman, appeared to want to spend more than I did and so we will just leave it right there if that is okay. I was satisfied the way the bill was introduced. I wasn't very keen about the escalator clause. We can strike that out and then we can move forward. So I think that I certainly bow to the overwhelming wisdom of the Legislature and the bill is back probably just about where I would have liked for it to have been anyway and I want to thank those who put it back in shape and corrected the errors of my ways in terms of it and I support the Reutzel motion to strike the escalator clause, leave the bill alone and move it across.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, a question of Senator Reutzel if he would respond, please.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Sure.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Reutzel, in the Hay Associates evaluation and all, they decided that the supplement should be eliminated and made the proper adjustments commensurate for that. If we eliminate this particular provision of the bill, how would you propose that we handle subsequent increases in salaries as far as the judicial branch goes?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Stoney, there are additional amendments up there. I think we will address that but it is my feeling that a commission for them to set the salaries is much more preferable to the judges having either an escalator clause in a present bill or coming in every year to the Judiciary Committee with bills.

SENATOR STONEY: So you favor a commission system rather than what we have encompassed in LB 398?

SENATOR REUTZEL: A commission system composed of citizens of the state to take advantage of the expertise of the legislative and judicial and executive branch staff members to put some sort of a proposal together, yes.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, Senator Reutzel. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would caution you in adopting