

April 24, 1979

LB 99

SENATOR NEWELL: I need to respond. Let me say this. I'm as much in favor of the Legislature as Senator Lewis is. It is not exactly an unimportant issue, the legislative salaries to me, I think that I have to be a little more honest to that. I'm having a tough time staying down here unless something is done. But at the same time, well you know, sometimes confession is good for the soul and sometimes you have to do that. My only thing is that I think we ought to be a little more honest about it and not try to play the shell game. We ought to say that we are looking for a salary increase and we ought to make that clear. That is what my memo would do. Would say that we the Legislature are looking for a salary increase. That three members of the executive branch would make recommendations which we could only reject or accept. I am also saying that we don't need the extra verbage that is in the constitutional amendment. You know, Senator Koch inferred that for some reason if you have twelve people recommending salary increases that is going to mean that you have got that much better of a job. No other state has asked for less than 6, 8, 9, 7 whatever it is. I think that the people of the great State of Nebraska would appreciate that we didn't add a whole lot of extra dollars for a commission and that this commission was only those already officers who already receive salaries who will not get any additional compensation for making recommendations to this body. I think that is a very cheap and inexpensive and very honest way to approach legislative salaries. I think that the Legislature should continue to set judiciary salaries and executive branch salaries as we should for you know the lowly janitor who works for the legislative council or the lowly janitor who works in the State Office Building or for state employees all the way across the board because if this state does not continue to have those coordinating powers we are going to find that we have fragmented government even more than it is already fragmented. This amendment, I think, is a much more honest approach. I think that it can get 40 votes. At least it is not the shell game. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the Newell amendment as discussed, amendment number four. All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. Have you all voted?

SENATOR NEWELL: Could we have a record vote.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Record vote has been requested.