

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle and then Senator Koch.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members, I think that we have had a lot of defeatist talk this afternoon and I don't feel that we are going to be defeated in the next election if we can come up with a forthright appeal or whatever you want to call it. There isn't a meeting that goes by in my district or even a telephone call from my constituents asking what could we do to help you get at least a cost of living as you work as a state senator in Lincoln. I don't believe that we have done a very good job of selling ourselves. I think that we have..we probably deserve what we get. If there is anything that I intend to do while I am in this Legislature is to up-grade the image that we have with the people back home. I don't think that we can do it by continually allowing ourselves to be paid \$400 a month. I just don't believe that is the way you go about it. Personally I am willing to let the bill go as it was drafted and have a commission set the salary. I think that we would be much better off when it is all finished than if we did it ourselves. I did support Senator Schmit but that didn't work. So I think now the best thing that we could possibly do is to go ahead and put this on the ballot and then work for it. If some of us are going to say I don't think that it is a good deal, if some of us say I don't need it, I don't want it, I still think that it is a crying shame that every person in the State of Nebraska can not run for the Nebraska Legislature, because of financial reasons. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: I move the previous question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we take the motion we have another amendment that we have to process. The Clerk will read the amendment.

CLERK: Read Merz amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President, members of the body, I think that this commission is no different than the per diem that we had two years ago. We are still not...I would like to support it and Senator Kahle just mentioned that if we would all work for it we probably could possibly get it, but I'll tell you I don't think that we have got the support and we have got the people behind us that will work in this direction.