

May 8, 1979

LB 398

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and fellow colleagues, the way I read this and if you read it, you're being sandbagged. They're raising the salaries \$16,000 and they're reducing \$2,000, and I see the fine hand of John DeCamp in this. That's the way he operates. So I'd ask that you vote no. Don't let them raise the salaries \$16,000 and only cut them \$2,000. So I oppose the DeCamp amendment.

PRESIDENT: I'm going to call on...there's still a number of lights on. Senator Cullan, did you wish to speak to this? Where is Senator Cullan? No. Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, now this is a sensitive matter and it's a serious matter. Finding judges to apply particularly in the more rural areas is a very difficult thing to do. Those people that are charged with being on those committees will tell you so, and they're attempting to put into place higher salaries as a carrot to become a judge and I approve of that. I believe that the work that the Committee has done and I believe that the work that the Legislature did previously the day that "all of the judges happened to be in town for a meeting", we voted up LB 398 as it is now and it would be my preference at this time to stay with what we have already decided and defeat the DeCamp or the Reutzel amendment, or the DeCamp-Reutzel amendment at this time and stay with 39<sup>R</sup> as we have concluded one time, and I wouldn't say that we're reconsidering, because the figures are much higher than they were the last time around.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you Mr. President and members of the Legislature, again I will try to explain what we tried to do in Judiciary. According to the court organization of the American Bar Association I quote, "Where judges of courts of higher jurisdictional receive larger salaries than judges of courts of lower jurisdictional rank, the differential should be small in recognition of the important responsibilities that all judges assume." There should be a difference, but not this great a difference, and I would like to quote from the Sunday Journal and Star...Lincoln Journal and Star, that I don't always agree with but is right on the button for this. It starts out talking about the legislative backfire courageously led by Fremont Senator Barry Reutzel against the bill. It goes on to say, "in recent times and without