

February 7, 1980

LB 628

know whether they are figuring new ones or old ones. This figure, I was just wondering if you knew about. I don't understand it myself.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If they are doing it on the basis of what has happened in the past in order to make a projection, this bill would do away with the validity of that system because a lot of sheriffs are quitting now because of low pay. So if a number are quitting because of low pay, those positions will go to new people, but if a sheriff is compensated at a decent rate, some of these people who quit like the job but they can't sustain themselves on the salary. Those people once trained would continue to run for office and I don't think the figure given here would necessarily be accurate or valid.

SENATOR KEYES: You are right. They can't sustain themselves on the salary and they can't find enough to bring in to get \$7 every two hours.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis, your light is on, then Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there is in our own experience an analogy which should be drawn to the contents of LB 628. Everyone of us in this body serves at a rate of pay which is not commensurate with the work that we perform and I ask each of you to take a moment to think about what that means to our performance as state senators. It provides us with a number of challenges and it requires a number of sacrifices but it also has some institutional effects. Number one, it promotes a higher turnover rate on the floor of the Legislature. Number two, it requires us to take time which we could spend on legislative matters to attend to other tasks, other income producing tasks. Number three, it inhibits our professionalization of the work that we perform simply because of the time commitments that we have to make elsewhere to produce income to support being state senators, and because of these kinds of restrictions, what have we done? Well, at this juncture we have discussed the possibility of a mechanism of reimbursement for expenses and, frankly, that is a rather tortured interpretation of past precedence to allow us to justify this expense measure which is now before us but I would submit that that is a clear response to the pressures that build up in an institution when you are not paid adequately for the job that you perform, and from our own experiences as state senators, what do we learn then about the contents of LB 628? We learn that there is a

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