

February 13, 1980

LB 621, 628

Mr. President, the second notice from the Committee on Committees.....your Committee on Appropriations gives notice of public hearing for February 21, and Senator Nichol would like to print amendments to LB 621. (See pages 665 and 666 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, we are ready for item #7, Special Order, LB 628. Do you want to read where we are?

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, LB 628 was a bill introduced by Senator Chambers. (Read title to LB 628.) The bill was referred to the Government Committee. It was advanced to General File. Committee amendments were adopted by the body on February 7 of this year. I now have pending a series of amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, do you have some comments before we go to the amendments?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Just very briefly, Mr. Chairman, so that what the bill does can be brought to everybody's mind. In 1983 the salary schedule will take effect, the bounty system will be abolished, the training program will be put in place. Between now and 1983 any sheriff and county board who would decide to can draw up an agreement whereby actual costs will be paid for the boarding of prisoners. There will be an increase in the jailer's fee from \$3.00 to \$10.00 to fill the gap between now and 1983. I am aware that there are amendments. I am going to try to keep my participation in the debate to a minimum because I don't want the bill to be stalled by a lot of discussion so that we won't get a vote on it. I am aware of some of the amendments and in order that I won't have to talk on them, I will say what I have got to say right at this moment. Senator Vickers offered an amendment to cut all of the salary amounts by \$3,000 and that amendment was handily defeated. The strength of the bill was demonstrated by the handling of that amendment. However, because law enforcement is such an important issue, a matter of genuine statewide concern and there are senators who have a sincere interest in alleviating some of the problems that 628 addresses, I met with Senator Vickers and in the same way that we struggled during the summer to arrive at the bill, we arrived at a compromise. We will cut the salaries across the board by \$1500. I accept Senator Vickers' amendment because it is a genuine amendment. It will remove his opposition and he will support the bill, so I am asking that the body accept Senator Vickers' amendment, defeat the others that may be offered, because they will result in much debate, delay the bill, and perhaps undo an amount of work which I