

March 24, 1980

LB 998

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the Appropriation committee amendments, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Senator Sieck and Senator Maresh now move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, you have an amendment.

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this is something we have tried in the past to allow meals for the troopers when they are away from home and are required to be on duty during the noon hour to give them that noon meal and so we are allowing them a flat rate of \$100 a month for meals away from home. This would be a cost of \$459,600. When you look in the handout material I have provided for the Legislature you can see that our neighboring states, all except Kansas, do allow meals away from home. Iowa allows \$97 per month; South Dakota \$120 per month; Wyoming \$45; Colorado \$100; Kansas no per diem; North Dakota \$90; Wisconsin up to \$330. I would like to say some of these include, like Colorado includes meals, cleaning and telephone. North Dakota allows this \$90 per month for meals, telephone and cleaning and Wisconsin, \$330 for meals only; Montana, \$65 a month includes meals, cleaning and telephone; Idaho, \$130 per month, meals only; New Mexico, \$62.50 per month, meals only; Oklahoma, \$45 per month, meals only and when you read further about the salary scale you can see that we are below the national average. This chart will show all the various states, their troopers pay, corporals, sergeants and lieutenants. The average national high for a trooper is \$1,531.99. The low is \$1,109.95. Nebraska's for a high for a trooper is \$443.00. (sic.) Low is \$1,053.33. For a corporal, national average is \$1,656.00. Ours is \$1,530.00. National average for the low for a corporal is \$1,349.00. Ours is \$1,168.00. A sergeant, a high national average, \$1,767.00. Ours is \$1,626.00. Sergeant low is \$1,512.00. Ours is \$1,239.00. Lieutenant high is, national average, \$2,072.00. Ours is \$1,836.00. A lieutenant national low is \$1,745.00. Ours is only \$1,392.00. So I think we wouldn't be out of line if we would allow these troopers to when they are on duty, they are supposed to be there to be ready to go if they were called and the people that supervise the troopers require that they be on duty during the noon hour. So I move that this amendment be adopted on the Appropriation bill, LB 998.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the Maresh amendment to LB 998. Senator Dworak, do you wish to be recognized?