

April 8, 1980

LB 615

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will not take very long. I oppose the amendment. I think the last agency of the federal government which this body should try to emulate or copy or follow after is the Internal Revenue Service. We all know that the Internal Revenue Service collects the taxes from the people in advance and they reimburse you well after the fact and I think that we certainly do not want to get into the position of adopting any suggestion that the Internal Revenue Service ever would advocate as being fair to the taxpayer. I certainly wholeheartedly oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: I call for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate is ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak to close.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, Mr. President and colleagues, weaker arguments I have heard not. Salary is salary and expense reimbursement is expense reimbursement and never the twain should meet. We have taken care of the salary situation with the 11.2 percent increase. Now we are talking about expense reimbursement, another category, altogether different. An expense reimbursement is just exactly that and the IRS tells us anything over 18.5 percent is salary. Now it just doesn't make good sense to me to try to pay a man a salary through mileage reimbursement. It is not even fair. Not all the state employees drive. Not all of them drive on an equal amount of miles. We are starting embarking on a system here, a situation here, that is going to be confusing, that is going to be expensive to administer, and that is grossly unfair. Now first of all, I think we have to understand that the 18.5 percent doesn't totally go to purchase of gasoline. There are a lot of other expenses in there. In fact the purchase of gasoline is a small part of operating an automobile. I would be glad now to turn the rest of my time to Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: A couple of brief remarks, Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I think Senator Lewis has mischaracterized what this amendment does. This does allow for increases.