

sent directly to the floor of the Legislature and the first time that it was presented out here I did go into more detail in the presentation of the reasons behind the bill. I don't want to repeat all of that again because it is not necessary, but let me say this so that we are clear. This bill would allow the receipt of expenses during session in the same way that they are allowed now between sessions. There is one constitutional provision that covers during and between session operation of the Legislature. So it is illogical to allow expenses between sessions when we are not functioning as a Senator to the same extent that we are when we are in session. So I am saying, if all of these various Attorneys General Opinions have justified under the Nebraska Constitution the granting of expenses between sessions, those same opinions justify expenses during session. We should remember also that it is not a court decision that denies us expenses, it is a statement by one Attorney General given in 1937, the same Attorney General who tried to deny the Governor the right to live in the mansion because he said it would violate the pay and perquisite provision of the Constitution. Never has this issue been presented in a fashion that could get it before a court. This is why a law is necessary. Once this bill passes, then it becomes the duty of whoever allows the expenditure of money to honor vouchers offered by Senators to recoup expenses during session. If the vouchers which are presented are honored, then the issue is resolved. If they are not honored, then there exists a clear statutory basis for seeking court action to compel the granting of the expenses. This final point, I don't think that any Senator should see anything wrong with supporting this bill. Remember, the issue has not been resolved by a court yet. My contention and the contention of others who have studied the situation is that we are entitled to expenses in the same way that other state officers are entitled to expenses. So, if a Senator would vote against this bill, my only conclusion would be that he or she would not be interested in receiving the expenses that would be granted under this bill. That is all that I have to offer. I don't think I left any stones unturned considering the presentation I gave the last time. So I am prepared to answer any questions that you ask. This bill does have the emergency clause so that we can get the whole thing resolved as quickly as possible.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just thought I might put this into a context that