

February 18, 1981

LB 206

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It would have cost more than this case, I know that much because the lawyer's got a higher fee. But let's forget the amount.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You knew that court costs would be involved but you were prepared to have the challenge, weren't you?

SENATOR HEFNER: I didn't know that it would go to court, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Others in this body knew that the thing was going to court as soon as it was passed and I think deep down in the bottom of Senator Hefner's shoes he had that knowledge also. But what we have to get away from, Senator Cope, is playing ourselves cheap all the time, telling the public we are not going to seek what we are entitled to in the hopes that they will dribble and piddle things out to us. There comes a time when we must aggressively and forthrightly seek that to which we are entitled to under the Constitution. Now other state officials receive expenses for various things. The Governor lives in that mansion. That does not violate the pay and perquisite provision of the Constitution. Would you be willing to tell the public that you will no longer accept the salary until such time as they vote you an increase in order to kind of placate them to the point where they will vote you a higher salary? No. So, if we are entitled to the expenses, we should have them. I think there should be no hesitancy about the issue. Various members of the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee...I think that is where the bill went, were for it. So I don't see any real arguments against the bill. All that the expenses will do is provide for the members of the Legislature that which is provided for every other department of government, namely the means and accessories in the language of the State Supreme Court to carry out the functions for which that department of government was intended. So I ask that you support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of LB 206 to E & R for Review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted?

CLERK: 26 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.