

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are on General File, priority bills and the first bill we will consider is LB 531.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 531 was offered by Senator Bernice Labedz. Read title of LB 531. The bill was first read on January 20th of this year. It was referred to the Constitutional Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President by the Constitutional Revisions Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson. Senator Vard Johnson are you going to take the committee amendments?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I just as well, Mr. Speaker. I was asked by members of the committee this morning if I would just take the committee amendments on the bill in as much as Senator Labedz is still in San Francisco with Falstaff magnates. The bill, a fellow shouldn't laugh at his own jokes. It really wasn't that funny actually.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Would you like to start over again.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes I would. Strike all of my earlier remarks Mr. Speaker. LB 531 is a proposed amendment to the Constitution to say that the legislature can set whatever salary it darn well pleases to set. The bill came out of the committee but it came out with an amendment and the amendment obviously is substantially different from the bill itself. The amendment says simply that the legislature shall receive a salary of \$800 a month. So it increases existing salary from \$400 a month to \$800 a month. So if the body approves that amendment and the bill advances, we would then have on the ballot at the General Election in 1982, the question whether or not legislative pay should be increased from \$400 a month to \$800 a month. Now, as you know there is another bill before the Legislature. It is LB 138, which would treat salary differently. It says the legislature can set its salary however it wants to set its salary so long as it doesn't exceed one-third of the governor's salary. 531 is a different concept, if it was placed on the ballot it would offer the voters another alternative. At this time I would move the committee amendment. Incidentally I am not a member of that committee and if there are members of the committee that want to speak in favor of that amendment, I would appreciate their kind words.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 531. Senator Cope, do you wish to be