

May 7, 1981

LB 541

this was considered in the Appropriations Committee in granting salary increases to all employees. Not all employees have the expenses of these men. They get out of their cars and they chase somebody, they tear their pants. Quit running. At any rate, expenses aren't tax deductible, and this is one way of giving these men what they deserve. Now when you are going to give them a salary increase, the government is going to get part of it. The highway patrol doesn't have a union that negotiates for them. They belong to an association but they have to pay dues to that association. So they are not really going to realize what you think they will out of this 72 or 78 dollar increase. And I just want to remind you that while Senator Higgins is here speaking for the highway patrol, in the last three years I have two tickets from them. So I am not speaking from any personal standpoint of looking for favors or anything. I have had my two tickets in the last three years. But I do think that you ought to consider that by giving them an additional expense account, we are giving them a boost, and at \$1102 salary, Senators, if you made \$1102 a month salary and you had two children, you will be eligible for an awful lot of government welfare programs. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, in closing I would just remind you of two or three things that have been brought up. First of all, as far as I know this is the only state employee who is not allowed to eat at home while they are on duty. They must eat out. Secondly, we spend approximately \$20,000 to train these people the first year, and about half that much the second year, so the rate of turnover is certainly more important than those who do not receive this kind of training. We are now giving them \$28 a month for cleaning which doesn't go too far...or...yes, \$28 including cleaning and telephone bills which does not go very far. \$100 certainly would be reasonable. Lastly, the state patrol is a visible part of state government. I think we should be proud of them. I am proud of them. I like the way they look. I like the way they act with the exception of when they give me a speeding ticket. But I have to admit that they are always right when they have done that. So I do support this heartily and I hope you do. We should have done it last year, but I think we should do it this year.

SENATOR CLARK: Before we take a vote on this, I would like to announce before they leave, forty-eight 8th Grade students and six adults from Holt County Rural School, O'Neil, Nebraska. Senator DeCamp's District. We have got Mr. Kenneth Weller, who is the Superintendent, and five teachers. Will you put your hands up there so we can find out where you are?

4727