

May 21, 1981

LB 541

and deny it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak. We are all speaking to the motion to return and we are talking about 541.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I support Senator Warner's motion to return this. We are spending a lot of money and I think we are treacherously close, if we haven't passed that threshold that would trigger a tax increase. I think the State Patrol is doing a good job, number one. Number two, I don't believe they are underpaid. Number three, our turnover rate in that particular agency of state government is very, very low. Number four, we have a waiting list of people trying to get in, but because of the turnover rate is three of four percent, that waiting list continues to get longer. I am not saying, Senator Nichol, that this isn't a good thing but I don't think it is a priority. I don't even think it is a necessity and it is not going to damage our Patrol's morale if this isn't passed. It isn't going to take something away from them that they don't now already have. I think it becomes a matter of priorities and I think we have a lot higher and many more priorities than this and I support the return of this bill, and when or if it is returned, will vote to delete this expenditure from the budget.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, and Senator Warner, at first I voted for this amendment to give the \$100 but I have talked to a couple of the members of the Budget Committee and it probably would be better to follow the technique of increasing the salary if it is felt that these individuals are not paid enough. So I will acknowledge that I did not cast a vote which would have been the best way to reward people for the work that they are doing. This is something like a tack on which is saying that the salary you receive is adequate but we are going to give you something extra. If in fact the salary is not adequate and the Legislature feels that way, we should amend the salary level to a higher amount. So I will support Senator Warner's motion to bring the bill back, and while I am doing it, I am acknowledging something which you will not often hear me do, that I made a mistake.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in opposition to the motion to bring it back. I think we have a very good force on the Highway Patrol in the form of Highway Patrol. I only wish some of the other law