

LB 204
January 17, 1973

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker and fellow members, I believe this would be one of the greatest research tools this body could do, would be to institute contact offices with state government in the districts. This would be very valuable in my district and I urge that we leave it on General File and pass the bill.

SPEAKER: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR SHITNEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am going to speak against indefinitely postponing this bill. From the remarks I made I hope no one thought that I was against what Senator Carpenter wanted to do in the first place, and I have an amendment to put on this bill. I have already written it which would say "and to authorize expenses of state senators to attend public meetings in the state that are authorized by the Executive Board". Now obviously, there is a question as to Constitutionality of this particular amendment but I think somebody questioned it they should challenge it. I don't believe that Senator Carpenter wants this bill indefinitely postponed. I think he is simply wishing to obtain the sentiment of this body at this moment. I feel that in some legislative districts that the Executive Board would authorize, perhaps, an office. In others, it would not be desirable. I think this should be left up to the wisdom of the Board so I am going to vote to not indefinitely postpone.

SPEAKER: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, if Senator Carpenter wouldn't be offended he should have the nickname of "ex-lax" because he knows how to get things moving. But I think the real issue this morning is what Senator Carpenter has tried to put his finger on, we want certain things done but then we find a thousand reasons not to act. In answer to what Senator Snyder has said, this is the equivalent of a public hearing that we are having here this morning. Everything that will be said is being said now. I think it is a waste of time and will serve no purpose to schedule it before any committee. Nothing new will come forth. I want this thing. I want us not to indefinitely postpone it. I think we will not indefinitely postpone it unless we have what psychologists refer to as a "death wish". We're trying to lift the Legislature. If we're not going to do anything for ourselves, we should never put another matter on the ballot talking about salary increases and things like that. If we are not able or will not assume the responsibility to do the things ourselves that we have the power to do, we should not hide behind a constitutional proposal to the people. Some responsibility is ours and we must assume it. I want Senator Carpenter's motion defeated as he wants it defeated as I am sure it will be defeated. Senator Snyder is not going to withdraw his motion because Senator Snyder is stubborn but I think we ought to defeat Senator Snyder's motion and move forward.

SPEAKER: Is there any further discussion? Senator Snyder.

SENATOR SNYDER: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, for the record I did have my light on prior to the last statement. I don't want this motion--or I don't the bill killed here today, not at all. We had placed on our desk this morning a communication from Senator Savage and the last line, not the first eighty lines, the last line said it would be helpful if any suggestions would be forwarded to the committee's chairman, Senator John Savage. We set here for an hour and fifteen minutes taking time and ask for suggestions. That is all I'm asking here on this issue before us now. Take a little time and a little thought. LB 204 only has about seven or eight lines to it and it's wide open and I'm not going to compare this to the ERA situation but it doesn't hurt anybody to take a little time and a little thought into these matters. That's wide open. It is not that I have undieing disrespect or lack of faith in our Executive Board but I think that the members of this body have a great