

March 1, 1973

SENATOR ANDERSON: I assume that we are going to dissolve it today then. Mr. President and members of the body, when this bill came up for original consideration on general file, I was one of those who voted against advancing the bill and I thought I might explain, my reason for doing this. This is that I think in focusing on the salaries of the upper echelon officials in state government, I think we've got our priorities turned around. I really think that the responsible thing that we should be doing is to hold the line on these salaries and attempt to bring the lower salaries, the salaries on the bottom of the totem pole up to a much more acceptable level. We are certainly not talking about poverty level existence or anything like that here, but I think that we do have a responsibility first to raise the lower salaries and then we can focus on these salaries.

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: As long as the subject has been brought up I don't think we'll waste too much time by discussing it. I have a statement which I think is true, it shows there is a forty one percent turn over each year of state employees earning less than seven thousand dollars a year. Now all we got in this body, or this state for example is a training ground. We take them and we teach them something if we can make them, why they leave, and this is costing a lot of money. You take as an illustration of my town, I think the school superintendent of the Junior College gets about either twenty five or six thousand dollars a year, I think the superintendent of the public school gets more than that, and part of the time, at least these people do more flying than they do supervising. Yet we are going to have a full refunding of school in order we can pay them thirty five or forty thousand dollars. We pay for example the head of OPPD fifty thousand dollars a year, on the other hand you talk about exec, we pay I think the superintendent of the Banking Department about seventeen thousand dollars a year, now think about that. Seventeen thousand dollars a year, you expect to get a man to supervise all the banks that are under his control and all the building and loans, and all those things, you know you can't do it, and the same thing is true in the insurance department, you pay them about the same thing, you hire a man for example, they're not qualified, set down on the basis of equality and I understand it with any insurance company irrespective of size in this state. Yes, actually he has got the full responsibility of all the things that go on in all the insurance companies in this country, in this state, and there isn't a member in this body has the remotest idea what insurance companies are doing, whether it is right or wrong, whether they are complying with the law or whether they are not, whether the policy holder is getting what they ought to get or whether they shouldn't get. We've got building and loans for example the mutual companies, get up the salaries as much as seventy five thousand dollars for a president, and he has all the other things in there. Now in this day and world my friend if you want something cheap for the most part we've got it, and you don't have the remotest idea what it's costing this state by adopting that type of a practice. Now you may not get qualified people either, irrespective what you pay them. I know there is many of the county judges in my judgement from looking at them and having some observation of their qualifications are not worth twenty thousand dollars a year, and I presume I had more to do with that bill than anybody else in the world, but the reason we did in my judgement, we wanted to pay enough so that we couldn't forever and a day here, we can't get good men because we don't pay them enough money. In the Attorney General's office you got deputies over making sixteen and seventeen thousand dollars a year and they can go any where else in the world and get more than that and most of them do over a period of time. One fellow left over there, I think it was over two years ago, he made more than that in the first case he had, and I presume they hired him because of the background he had from the standpoint of the information and the