

(Start Belt #7)

There is no basis for it as to whether this is the proper amount. There is no basis for anything involved in this in my opinion except to get a little bit more money for salaries. It does not address itself to the need of the Legislature nor to the people of Nebraska. It doesn't do anything in changing the qualifications or the mix of the qualifications of this body. It helps nothing but \$275 a month. It isn't even close to coming to answer the question of what we are asking the people. Now we are the leaders, we are the Legislature. I see no reason why we can't take an opportunity here and exert our leadership throughout the State of Nebraska in appropriating some money to an interim study committee to ask questions. What is you want your State Legislature to do? What is it you think they do do. How much do you think this is worth? What's the average qualification of the legislator in his office now? What would you like him to be? On and on into the night and take a business-like approach to this instead of a political one. We're talking about tricking the people--let's don't trick them, let's give them some leadership. We've all been elected. We're all respected in our districts. Let's use that respect by acting like leaders and do it now and defeat this bill and get into an interim study committee that can show what we should do and what we want to do.

SPEAKER: Chair next recognizes Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and Members of the body. In a sense I agree with what Senator Kelly is saying. He is trying to do the best by the State of Nebraska but unfortunately, I think what Senator Syas is trying to do is addressing itself to the realities of the State of Nebraska. I, again repeat, I offered a constitutional amendment which would have freed up to a great degree the compensation of State Senators. It was defeated in November. Senator Syas had some doubts upon that amendment, but I'm going to do perhaps what he did not do--I'm not sure whether he fully supported my amendment, I'm going to fully support his. I think it's realistic, I think it's something that the people will buy and I think it's in the best interests of this body. I'm not doing this for myself, I've already announced publicly that I'm not running again and I'd like to go on record that I will be out working and trying to help the members of this body, do whatever I can to bring the salaries up to what I think they ought to be.

SPEAKER: Are you all through discussing L.B. 232? Senator Syas, do you waive your closing? Question is, shall L.B. 232 be advanced from general file to E&R initial? All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. You're voting on the advancement of L.B. 232 from general file. Have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 5 nays, 11 not voting.

SPEAKER: The bill is advanced. Do we have some other business on the desk?

CLERK: Message from the Governor, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Read the message.

CLERK: Message read. Meetings read.

SPEAKER: Are there objections to using the West Chamber? It is so ordered.

CLERK: Meetings read.

SPEAKER: Senator Duis, did you have something to come before