

expenses but what we are doing now is rather ridiculous and I think this would be a step in the right direction and even, no matter what the salary is for the state senators and what it will be in the future, I think the distance that we live from Lincoln has a great deal to do with our expenses and I think that should be taken into consideration no matter what we do with the salaries. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. The question before the House is shall debate cease. Have you all voted? We are voting on ceasing debate on LB 690. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 7 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate ceases. Senator Lewis, do you want to close on the motion to advance the bill?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes, Mr. President, I have sat on all the salary bills through the years that we have had in and out and it is uncomfortable for me to discuss them but I said the most important thing that happens to the members of this body is they be reimbursed for their actual out of pocket expenses. At one time I offered an amendment that we would work for a dollar a year and expenses. I want Senator Kelly to understand that I believe the people of the state would not expect the members to pay their own expenses for providing service to this Legislature. It is a tremendous hardship and it is a tremendous hardship particularly on those who live great distances from the capital, in terms of driving time. Sometimes we fail to realize if Senator Nichol comes by car from Scottsbluff, how long is that, Senator Nichol, seven hours? Seven and a half hours, four hundred miles and that is very expensive and Senator Nichol needs to get back and see his people during the session and that is expensive. I am prepared and willing to support this issue before any group and I think any reasonable people would agree it is a right and legitimate cause and I am willing to adjudicate that in court if necessary because it is a reasonable way to handle the issue before us. So it doesn't put us in the position to where people are saying, you are always asking for a bigger salary. What we are saying is that it is right and legitimate in all functions that expenses be paid and I am asking you to provide that opportunity and I am