

highway itself or the area is considered to be the premises and that meals eaten within that area can be considered as being eaten on the job. Currently at the present time many state patrol agencies across the United States do reimburse their troopers for their meals. This amendment would allow the administration of the patrol to reimburse the officer for one meal per day up to a maximum of \$4.00, or approximately \$84 per month. I think that I should point out that the troopers work a ten hour day and five days a week. If you will check their income based upon their work week you will find that their salary is not out of line, in fact it would probably be a little less than many salaries in state government. I know that this amendment and again I apologize to the budget committee because it did not come up earlier. I want to point out again that if there had been time I would have brought it up to the committee, because I am not embarrassed whatsoever to bring this amendment to the committee. I think that it is only fair and reasonable by virtue of the fact that an officer of the law while on duty is not allowed the luxury of sitting down for an hour in his home or with some friends and having a leisurely lunch. But rather he is always on call. He may at any time be called on to perform a service for which we have hired him. I think that these officers have performed in an extraordinary manner over the years. It was only with a great reluctance that this meal allowance was discontinued back at the time we did discontinue it. Therefore, I am pleased to bring this amendment to the committee and to the Legislature today and recommend for its adoption. I know that there are those that are going to be concerned about the cost, and it is going to cost \$380,000 or \$390,000. That is a substantial amount of money, I recognize that. I recognize also that under the present conditions we can legitimately offer this to the officers and I would hope that you would support the amendment. I would be glad to answer any questions. I have added...I have asked the page to hand out a handout on the amendment. I regret that I am not better informed on it than I am. But, I think that under the conditions you understand why. I would hope that if you would like to check the handout under program 189 it would require the command support division require about \$34,000. Under program 190 the criminal investigation division it will cost about \$73,000. Program 195 which are the troopers on the road it will cost us \$285,000 for a total of \$392,000. I offer the amendment and ask for its adoption.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I stand to oppose this amendment. Again this is one that did not come to the committee's attention during the process,