

difficult to vote against it. But, I think that the previous salary benefits plus a major retirement improvement which was passed in the last year or two, I think add up to substantial increases for our state patrolmen. I think that they are using kind of their special privilege to gain sympathy in this legislature and ask for increases beyond that for other state employees. I think that this year perhaps we should not give into this particular approach and ask them to go at least one year without the additional supplement. I would oppose Senator Schmit's amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak? Senator Cullan, before you speak I would just take a moment to introduce some guests of Senator Kahle in the south balcony, we have 8 members of the MNO Extension Club from Minden, Nebraska. Would you ladies please stand and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, let me preface my remarks by saying that I think that we have a very excellent State Patrol and I think that they do a good job and I'm very proud of the effort that they do put forth in the State of Nebraska. But it seems that every year when we come to the budget process the State Patrol comes in with something outside of the budget process that they very well may have achieved if they went to the budget committee. I think a couple of years ago they came in and they received longevity increases and set a precedent for state government that was followed the next year by the game wardens. I wonder who else is going to be coming in to us next year wanting meal allowances. Are the game wardens going to be in? Are other state employees going to be in? I think that we had better move slowly and ask the State Patrol to submit this request to the budget committee next year and let the budget committee take a look at it. I really think that we had better be careful about backdooring the budget committee in this fashion. I know that I got pretty upset with the Department of Health when I saw them trying to back door the Public Health Committee on another issue. I think that for the integrity of the committee system and for the integrity of the budget process we had better reject this particular amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Newell, did you wish to speak to this particular amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: How many others would speak?

SENATOR NICHOL: Five.