

April 30, 1979

LB 589

SENATOR NEWELL: Let me call the question.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is shall debate cease. Please record your wishes.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting aye.

SENATOR NICHOL: Record, excuse me, do not record yet. Ceasing debate. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, no nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: Debate is ceased. Senator Schmit, did you like to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: In any case I just wanted to say that I recognize again the unpopularity of this kind of an amendment. I recognize the absolute correctness that Senator Warner, Fowler and Cullan have pointed out. I recognize that it is not popular to bring this kind of amendment to the floor. I recognize all of those things. I would be the first to admit that I do it with some reluctance, except for the fact that a number of years ago this body was forced to take that meal allowance away from the troopers. I felt that it was not out of ordinary for me to bring it to your attention. I recognize that there are many benefits provided to various persons in state government. I would hope that almost without exception those benefits are earned. I think that they are. I think that it is only fair that we provide a meal allowance of one meal per day for a ten hour day when the trooper is never off the job. You know in private industry we have to do that. Many of us who employ people find ourselves in the same situation and we pay those meals. Yet strangely enough in state government we do not allow for that kind of reimbursement. I know that there are those persons here who are concerned about the budget process. I recognize that much wisdom resides in the budget committee. But, there is no way that all of these proposals can always be brought before the budget committee. Therefore this was not be the only measure that will be offered to the entire body. I would hope that you would give it some serious thought. That if at all possible you will find it in your conscience to vote for the amendment you will do so, recognizing of course that you will have many other opportunities before the last 15 days expire to exercise other methods to demonstrate your frugality. I know that the troopers will appreciate it and I think that I can only say from my standpoint that I will also. Mr. President, I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

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