

February 25, 1980

LB 628

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are speaking to the Kahle amendment found in the Journal on page 617. It is amendment number two. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Kahle, and you can just nod, does your amendment strike the salaries and the increase in the jailer's fee? Is that the main thrust of your amendment?

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, it strikes the part on page 8. It is not just exactly the jailer's fee, it's paid by the county where there are prisoners confined in the county jail. I guess it would be the jailer fee as we would call it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, just so I know what I am addressing myself to...

SENATOR KAHLE: Three dollars instead of ten dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and I am opposed to Senator Kahle's amendment. I am going to tell the members of the Legislature why I think this bill ought to remain in the form that we have put it in. First of all, I want to correct a statement Senator DeCamp made. He said the salary is the stumbling block. Senator DeCamp, that is not really the stumbling block. Governor Thone is. But I say, to paraphrase Teddy Roosevelt, or whoever that was, hang the Governor, full speed ahead. I mean that figuratively, naturally. But here is what we have to consider. The sheriff, as a law enforcement official, has different duties than any of these other county officials. When we give an individual the discretionary power to take human life, that is an awesome responsibility. These kind of powers, arrest, the power to kill and the other things that the sheriff can do which no civilian can do, must be properly exercised, and in order to get the kind of people that we need to handle these awesome responsibilities and powers, we have to offer a decent amount of money. You don't always get what you pay for, but you certainly won't get any more than what you pay for. So if you want to pay Volkswagen wages you can't Cadillac law enforcement, and I think it is ironic that the ones characterized as conservatives on this floor are the ones opposed to paying for what we need in the way of law enforcement. I don't think anybody would feel that because my name is on this bill as an introducer that all of the hostility that exists between me and law enforcement personnel throughout the state is going to evaporate. That is a side issue. Regardless of how I may be perceived by