

February 25, 1980

LB 628

Senator Chambers has been perfectly honest here by saying, let's stop the under-the-table thing, let's not force sheriffs to try and eke out supplemental income by starving prisoners, not feeding them, or whatever. Let's abolish that, and pay them a decent salary straightforward. It seems to me a reasonable thing. I could not understand why the counties would not want to finally pay sheriffs in an honest manner the amount of money that they say they have been paying them under the table. I oppose Senator Kahle's motion. I think Senator Chambers has brought in a solution to a problem that has been in Nebraska. He has brought law enforcement from 1858 to at least 1958 by this bill. I am not sure we have gotten it up to 1980 yet, but at least we are taking a major step forward from being kind of a western county sheriff Matt Dillon-Dodge City system to something that is a little more honest and a little more straightforward and a lot more professional. I think we want professional law enforcement. We want it across the state, and to get professional law enforcement you have to pay a salary deserving of a professional. I oppose Senator Kahle's motion. I think that it destroys what is a good faith effort by Senator Chambers to update law enforcement, to abolish the bounty system, give us quality professional sheriffs and quality professional law enforcement.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Let me ask the question again. Do I see five hands? Okay. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate has ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle to close on his amendment number two found on page 617.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, a lot has been said about whether we should have local control or not. I would like to remind Senator Chambers that in my county the county officials are elected by district and they are elected by the people, and I, of course, have a strong conviction that they and they alone should be determining what is done in that county court house. I realize that we have infringed on their power over the years, especially with the seven percent lid. I think that this is one of the