

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I'm a little bit surprised at Senator Maresh and Senator Sieck have come in with this amendment because I'm not sure they realize exactly how generous the Appropriations Committee was with the State Patrol this year. The State Patrol will receive the 11% salary adjustment like all other state employees will and Senator Maresh is absolutely correct in indicating that there has gotten to be some inconsistencies so the bill as is puts an additional \$328,451 above the 11%. Now I don't have the dollar figure and I asked the staff to look it up but we don't have the dollar figure as to what the 11% amounts to but the \$328,000 is above the 11%. Now I think that is treating the State Patrol rather generously and I, like Senator Maresh, feel they do a good job and they do need to be compensated but I think we have taken care of that. I think another thing that happened before my time and before many of you people were on the scene but some of the old, old, oldtimers like Senator Warner and Senator Schmit and people like that will remember that we had kind of a controversy in the state about the Lincoln troopers driving to Crete to eat lunch because then it came under the per diem. I think anything that would encourage this type of movement with the existing energy crisis is something that we don't want to be a part of. I think that this is a very, very expensive and a very serious amendment. The dollar amount of this amendment is \$460,000. So I just don't think we are in a position to spend around a million dollars in just increases. I think we have been fair. I think we have been generous. I think what we have done is right and now to tamper with it I think would be a tremendous disservice to other employees of the state, not only to give them their 11% but \$328,000 on top of the 11% and that is done. We did that. Now to put another \$460,000 on top of that, I think that is coming to the well too many times and I would very strongly urge that you reject Senator Maresh and Senator Sieck's amendment and stay with the Appropriations Committee's generous increase in this area.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I do support this amendment. I did get a letter from a trooper from York, Nebraska, who is not going to receive this 11%. He is only going to receive the 5% so he is in very much need of additional funding and as I understand, they are on the job when they leave their home, even though they are eating their meals and at the present time they have