

March 24, 1980

LB 998

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner now moves to amend the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, this amendment as the Clerk has just read it says that this would allow the state patrolmen \$50 a month for meals. This is a compromise. We just heard the pros and cons of a previous amendment that Senator Maresh and Senator Sieck had before you. The state troopers are a dedicated group of law enforcement officials and I think that we need to take care of some of their expenses when they are out on the road and so what this would do, would allow them \$50.00 a month for meals. This will cost the state a little more than \$200,000 a year and I would certainly urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you want to speak to the Hefner amendment?

SENATOR MARESH: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think this is a reasonable compromise. \$100.00 a month did not go and I think we need to do something for these patrolmen that eat away from home and I think we should support the Hefner amendment to increase their pay by \$50.00 for meals when they are away from home.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I think Senator Kelly hit it right on the head when he said we are charting a course here. We are setting a precedent that may or may not be wise but I think it takes more scrutiny than this late date and something thrown up for auction on the floor. I just want to indicate one more time what we are talking about in dollars. Now Senator Hefner and Senator Sieck like to talk about \$4.00 a day or \$2.00 a day or something like that but with this amendment now, instead of \$460,000 we are only talking about \$230,000, a quarter of a million dollars. The point of the matter is with the 11% salary increase the State Patrol will receive an additional approximately \$900,000. Changing their steps, that adds \$328,000. That is done. That is in the bill. That totals \$1,228,000 or a million and a quarter dollars. Now Senator Hefner is trying to put another quarter of a million dollars on top of that. It is too much money in one year. It is too much too fast. It is setting a precedent and changing direction that has not been properly thought through.