

April 8, 1980

LB 615

this weekend carried the fact that gasoline was up two cents last month. Most of those who follow government know effective May the 15th that there is going to be another ten cent increase in gasoline. Now I thought everybody knew that. I thought everybody would assume that since we debated this last and with the price of gas up twelve cents that probably a logical mind would think that it is probably going to cost more to drive your automobile. Now that is the way we think in the Midwest. Now economics may be different elsewhere and the other amazing part, simply amazing, is I have heard so much lip service from the budget committee that one of the things we need to do to break the seven percent is to give the state employees a break and develop, and develop a better salary pattern for them in the times of double digit inflation, and now from two members we hear, wait a minute, we can save a hundred thousand dollars on state employees. If they want to save some money on state employees, Senator Schmit, I can suggest some places that are more than a hundred thousand dollars if that is their motivation. So I assume that is not their motivation. Then I assume their motivation is the fact that somebody is going to have to work with some forms. Well after all the legal work that has been passed here and all the forms and all the processes, I find that to be a rather shallow argument. So I don't know what the argument is. I know the simple facts are it is very, very expensive, and I filled up this morning before I came down here, and it was more than a dollar a gallon and it was more than a dollar and a dime a gallon. Of course, I use regular in my truck, but I want to tell you it is expensive and it costs more than eighteen and a half cents per mile to drive those vehicles, and now if we want the people to subsidize that are state employees, we ought to say so but we ought to do it to them in a more direct fashion. We ought to pay them for their expenses like we have argued in this Legislature, and if we want to be chintzy with them, if we want to save a hundred thousand bucks, let's do it in the budget bill and Senator Hoagland and Senator Dworak, the sponsors of this amendment, had that opportunity. So let's put it up front. Let's do what we said in this Legislature, let's pay people what their legitimate expenses are, and then if we want to cut a few bucks out, let's have the personal courage to do so when it comes to the salaries. Mr. President, I oppose the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit. I have Senator Schmit Senator Kahle, Senator Kelly, Senator Chambers, Senator Wagner. Senator Schmit.

9609