

might be helpful to you. LB 206 deals with the question of perquisites and the fact that that doesn't prevent us from getting our expenses paid and that is a very important point. I would like to mention the fact that although I can see the definite need for this legislation and will support it, you all know that the League of Women Voters is conducting a petition drive in this state. They have started this this last summer to try and look at our salary situation and try and help us through a petition drive to put on the ballot a change in the Constitution that would better support our legislative members. I prefer that effort and the effort by the grassroot citizenry to try and better compensate us for the work that we do in the Legislature. But I also understand the fact that there are a great deal of expenses that are now not being met. The fact that this bill really doesn't help a Lincoln Senator like myself because it deals with expenses does not bother me at all because I really am concerned about the fact that all of you who have to drive into Lincoln, have to maintain an apartment, have that daily expense of travel and maintenance of a place to stay here, becomes a very, very heavy burden for you, even much more than the situation I and other Lincoln Senators face. And so, because of the extreme nature of the problem I am supporting of this bill, but I also want you to know that that effort by the citizens is going on, that they realize the fact that we are undercompensated and that the expenses involved and the time involved with this body are misunderstood maybe by many of the general public and that a change is needed to better support this Legislature. With that, I would support the bill and encourage your support but also keep in mind the fact that there is a concern out there and that the general public is interested in trying to better compensate us.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to the bill?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, if you will notice in your red book, I voted against advancing this bill to the floor, and the reason that I voted against it is because I think our Constitution is very clear and very exact, and here is what it says: It says, "Each member of the Legislature shall receive a salary not to exceed \$400 per month during the term of his office. In addition to his salary each member shall receive an amount equal to his actual expenses in traveling by the most usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the Legislature." It is black on white, very clear. And I think what, Senator