

SENATOR HOAGLAND: If Senator Chambers would yield, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask him two questions about the effective date of this act. Senator Chambers, as I understand the fiscal note on the way the bill is written, if this act is passed, this bill is passed, and becomes effective and the constitutionality is upheld by the Supreme Court, why then we would be able to claim expenses retroactive to the beginning of this session, or January 7th. Am I correct about that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, that is my understanding. That is my intention.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Thank you, Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I can't support this for the simple reason that I think it is going to spoil any chance of the Legislature getting a raise. Look at it this way. People are dubious and doubtful about the amount of money that Senators make and you can tell them day after day what it is but they still do not understand. They do have this right by Constitution of allowing an increase. If we try to circumvent that by a bill like this for expenses, I don't think they will ever vote a raise. If it is introduced and we try and should win, then you can be sure that we will never get a raise and I just don't like the idea. It is a chancy thing at the best. We don't know whether it is constitutional or not, or so Senator Chambers says, and for all the odds I am not that much of a gambler. I would rather wait and do it the correct way.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Chambers. And in response to Senator Cope, Senator Cope, at the present time we do draw expenses during the interim and the people out in the State of Nebraska haven't really got upset about this. I think by going the expense route instead of a salary the citizens of the State of Nebraska will understand that because they know that we do have expenses. They know that it does cost us to eat and live and travel because in their lives they have expenses. And the fact that they will not go along with a salary increase, I don't think has anything to do with the issue. I feel Senator Chambers is just trying to clarify something. I think he is right. I think we