

should fight it and see what happens and get the issue settled once and for all. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler and then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I support the bill that has been presented. This Legislature has acted on this legislation before. It was developed by the Executive Board based on a legal study as to the whole question of the Constitution in this section. It is not an effort to circumvent the Constitution. There is a question of ambiguity as far as the language and there are previous court cases in Nebraska that deal with this question of perquisites and allow the fact that there is a possibility that expenses can be paid during a legislative session. Now it would seem to me somewhat odd to have a Constitution that says you can get expenses when you are not functioning as a legislative body, that is you can get expenses in the interim but you couldn't get expenses during the session and I think it is that type of ambiguity that indicates that perhaps previous interpretations of the Constitution have been wrong. Now I think it is up to the Legislature to bring this issue to the point that it can be resolved. I think we have a mechanism and vehicle to do so here. I would urge this body to advance this so that we can clarify this question. Ironically, living in Lincoln I would not benefit from this bill because my expenses coming to and from the Capitol have been limited since I live five blocks from the building, but I have seen numerous other Senators who have simply been unable to serve in this body because of the cost simply of traveling to and from the Legislature. I have talked to legislators who have stopped going back to their district during the session because they cannot afford to do so and in so doing that isolates them from the voters back in their district. I think with these sorts of problems pressing upon us when you realize that expenses are paid in the interim and you see previous Nebraska court decisions, I think you can see this is not an effort to circumvent the Constitution. This is an effort to try and clarify an ambiguity and perhaps a contradiction that has existed. So I would say that this bill has been well researched legally. There are questions. There are legal briefs that have been developed by the last Exec Board that could be provided to anyone here who questions whether or not there has been legal research in this area. It is based on cases in Nebraska and I would urge you to vote to advance the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers to