

March 3, 1981

LB 206, 206A

SENATOR KREMER: What kind of an effect would that have on the constitutional amendment if this thing is in court at the time? Would it not practically destroy our chances of getting a raise in our salaries?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, Senator Kremer, I think the two issues are entirely distinct...(interruption).

SENATOR KREMER: I mean in the eyes of the public. I am talking about the eyes of Mr. Public out there. He is saying, now wait a minute, here they are trying to get reimbursed for their expenses and at the same time they want a raise in their salaries, and will that harm to any extent at all in your opinion the chances of getting something passed in the way of a constitutional amendment to raise our salaries?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, Senator Kremer, because I think most people who have jobs are aware of expenses and what those entail and I doubt that any provision which is designed to raise the Senators' salary is going to pass. There have been all kind of efforts. There have been all types of phrasings of the amendment. There have been support in terms of telling that you will only spend a penny, or something like that and people say, well, that's a penny too much. So I don't think this issue ought to be tied into that. Either we are entitled to the expenses under the Constitution or we are not. Right now we have what I feel to be is a very confusing situation for the public. We get expenses when we are not in session. We don't get them when we are. We have an obligation, I think, to resolve the matter and had the Attorney General done proper research it wouldn't be necessary to go to court anyway. But I don't think the two are related and I don't think despite what has been said by some news editors in Lincoln that the two ought to be joined. The World Herald yesterday supported an increase in salary but also supported the idea of dealing with the expenses issue. So I think the two can run side by side without hurting each other.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I probably agree with you that the two do not necessarily have to run together or they could. I just don't want...and I think I will support the motion to unbracket and I will support the court's taking a look at this and they will make the decision anyway. But I am still a little bit worried what Mr. John Q Public is going to say, well, here they are trying to get everything all at once, and maybe we won't, I don't know. Thank you.