

March 3, 1981

LB 206, 206A

member of the Legislature shall receive a salary not to exceed \$400 per month during his or her term of 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. Members of the Legislature shall receive no pay or perquisites other than such salary and expenses. I think our Constitution is very clear. It is very distinct. Senator Chambers, I think it is black on white. It says one trip down and one trip back, no others. And I realize that Senator Chambers here is trying to prove a point, but to prove this point it is going to cost the State of Nebraska thousands and thousands of dollars and, therefore, I am objecting to this bill. Senator Chambers has diagnosed a problem but he has come up with the wrong solution. This solution that he has is wrong. I think the correct solution would be to introduce a bill calling for a constitutional amendment so that the people, so that the people in the State of Nebraska could vote on it. I think that we have hoodwinked the public long enough. Let's get back to principles. I think that if this bill passes, it could jeopardize our chances of getting a constitutional amendment to raise our salary, defeat it. I believe Senator Labeledz and Senator Johnson each have a bill to raise our salaries. But I am sure that if this bill goes through, they will...the public will turn these constitutional amendments down. Think of the court cost. Think of the attorney fees that this will cost us if this bill is passed. I feel that this bill attempts to circumvent the Constitution. It attempts to end-run our Constitution and, of course, I don't think the public likes to see us do these things. It is against my principle to not stand up here this morning and explain to you why I oppose this bill. Our Constitution spells it out so plainly and so clearly, no expenses should be allowed to Senators during the session except one trip to Lincoln and one trip home. Our Constitution doesn't say anything about expenses in between sessions, and so I say to you this morning, let your conscience be your guide and I just wanted to call this to your attention one more time. I truly believe that Senator Chambers is doing what he thinks is right, but I believe it is wrong. I believe that the right solution would be a constitutional amendment. With this being said, I unanimously ask this motion to be withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: He asked unanimous consent to withdraw the motion.