

March 12, 1981

LB 138

been attempts made by changing the expense law and that has not been successful. Well the lack of success on any of these attempts doesn't mean that we should keep from trying it again. It just means simply that you and I have got to continuously talk to the voters about what is fair and just and right until finally the voters understand that it is improper and that they do themselves a disservice to keep our salaries at such low wages. We cannot continue to operate as we have. Now there is a group in Lincoln that is sort of spear-headed I understand by the League of Women Voters and they have been very interested in doing something during the next year and a half on legislative pay, and they met apparently this weekend and they have decided that this particular measure that I call for in LB 138 is one that they feel is very responsible and the kind of measure that they can go out and educate their people too, and they would be willing to support it. Now I am hopeful, but just because I am hopeful doesn't guarantee its passage.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: What we have to do is we have to adopt a schema that we think we can live on, that we can run on, that we can support. We have to pass it now. We should pass it with 40 votes to get it on the primary ballot in May of 1982 and we should talk for it, but we should make certain that groups like the League of Women Voters and others know that this is what the Legislature now thinks is the most appropriate way to go, and if that is what they think, they will work for it and with some luck we will get it passed. If we don't get it passed, obviously we will continue to function as a Legislature, but we should never look at it in that fashion, we should continue to work for what I say is simple justice. I ask your favorable consideration of LB 138.

SPEAKER MARVEL: There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely moves to amend the bill. (Read the Wesely amendment as found on page 886 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, what this amendment would do is place this question on the primary rather than the general election ballot. I talked to Senator Johnson about this and I would like to share with you the reason for this change and the reasons for this amendment. Senator Beutler and I,