

to LB 138. I think it is evident to all of us the public has expressed their opinion many times in opposition to a salary increase for state legislators. I don't think that at the present time the mood is any different than it has been in the past, in fact, if anything it is more militantly addressed in the opposition to any kind of pay increase. I think that it is a waste of time. It is a waste of effort and the Legislature will suffer in the process. I want to call attention also to the fact that I think, and I know that Senator Vard and Wesely and those who are interested in this bill are sincere, I think they have a real deep concern about the inability of certain persons to be able to serve, but I think that this bill here would perhaps create greater inequities than it would resolve. Those of us who live in the eastern half of the state or eastern third of the state have a tremendous advantage over the members of this body who live in the far west. It costs Senator Nichol \$500 for a round trip by air to his home town. I think that when you look at the distance that Senator Clark, Senator Nichol, Senator Cullan, have to travel, the expenses that they incur are so much greater than it is for those of us who live in this part of the state, that to pass a salary bill that could provide for some of us some sort of reasonable compensation would be actually a cruel subterfuge on the public because those who live in the west would not have any kind of compensatory benefits. I think that if we are going to address the issue of salary and compensation, you have to look at the expenses that are involved. We have not done that in this bill, and not to do so is certainly a disservice to a great majority of the members of our body. I think when you try to address the issue across the board, it makes it doubly difficult. There are certain professions, for example, if you are a teacher, if you are a lawyer or a doctor and you live in the western part of the state, you totally abrogate your constituency. You have to just abandon the people upon whom you depend for a living. If you happen to live in the eastern part of the state, in some professions you can survive, in others you cannot. Those in the teaching profession cannot survive because they need to be here. But I think it is important that we recognize that, first of all, the bill is not going to pass. It's not going to pass. I can tell you it's not going to pass.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We know it is not going to pass. Why drag