

March 12, 1981

LB 138

to sell. I do not promise any of you in here a rose garden. I do not promise success, but, at least, you will have something that is responsible and certainly ought to be approved. I move advancement of LB 138.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I really believe that this bill would be counterproductive in that as Senator Schmit indicated would not have a chance of passage and primarily because it is hooked to the Governor's salary. We have...as Senator Vard Johnson indicated, we have not been overly generous with our constitutional officers in the past, but we have not had that incentive up until this point, and if this bill should pass, those voters out there are going to recognize this situation. They are going to say, look, look this is an opportunity for the Legislature to set their own salary, the sky is the limit, because they set the Governor's salary, and they now have an incentive to increase those constitutional salaries. So I see this bill as being really counterproductive. I think that Senator Labeledz's bill with the committee amendments which is coming up next has a much better chance of passage and, in fact, it has the only chance of passage. Senator Chambers mentions that we talk about very small increases. I think that is the only possible way to go. There is no way that the voters of this state are going to grant unlimited power for the state legislators to set their own salary or raise the salary by a significant amount. I agree with those who say that the expense situation should be changed, however, I am not sure that we can get that done at this time. I would oppose this bill and urge the body to seriously consider Senator Labeledz's bill which is coming up next.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp, and then we have Senator Schmit.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, just to throw out another thought. You know the argument I kept hearing against doing anything was, well, you guys are only there for 60 and 90 days. There is a complete misunderstanding by the public that for all practical purposes this is a year-around job. Like it or not, that's the way it is, and it has become that way because of development of government at the federal level, the involvement of government in so many ways in our lives. That's just the