

March 12, 1981

LB 138

states salaries are set statutorily by the Legislature, and in 6 they are established on the basis of recommendations made by a state compensation commission. Only in 9 states is legislator pay frozen in the Constitution, only in 9 states." Now what does that mean? That means very simply that in many other states Legislatures had to go to the people time and time again to get the Constitutions amended to bring Legislatures into the second half of the twentieth century, and they succeeded eventually. We will succeed as well, but you have to persevere and you cannot...you cannot allow your vote to be dogged by cynicism and by despair, but instead you continue in the face of a hard, cruel, modern world to keep on truckin'...to keep on truckin'. And, ladies and gentlemen, I think this is a solid amendment to take to the voters. I know there will be a lot of folk outside the Legislature that will work for it. I would not...I would not be deterred by the fact that we have been defeated in the past. And, Senator Cope, when you look over the chart, you will discover that at least on two occasions we have put fixed dollar amounts before the voters to have them rejected. There is no surefire formula for success, but just because there is no surefire formula for success should not deter us from continuing to do that which is right, and that which is right is to allow us to set our own salaries as we do the judges in this state, the Governor in this state, the Lieutenant Governor in this state, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer, the Public Service Commissioners, and through our appropriations all state employees. Now that is some responsibility we already undertake, surely we can set our own pay with one modest cap. I move the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the advancement of the bill to E & R for Review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 14 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is advanced. The Clerk has some business on....

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of materials to read in. The first is a resolution offered by Elizabeth Hoagland. "WHEREAS, I, Elizabeth Hoagland, am six months old today, March 12; and WHEREAS, my old man, 'Old Tightwad,' has finally loosened up and bought cigars and candy for everyone; and WHEREAS, he and my mom, Mrs. Tightwad, are becoming duly concerned for my moral and intellectual development; and WHEREAS, members of your august body have