

to think about this matter in terms of the third independent arm of the government. This is the Legislature, We have to stop allowing it to be kicked around. We have to stop demeaning and degrading it ourselves by indicating we are not worth anything or even entitled to all of the things that other public officials are receiving now. What I am asking you to do is to vote, we need 30 to override, to override the Governor's veto of LB 206. You can see from his very brief message vetoing the bill, that he had no personal opposition and no real interest in the bill. It was done as a favor to the Attorney General and I think even if they have that relationship, we are not bound as a Legislature to uphold the Attorney General's office ego. What ought to have been done by the present Attorney General if not any who came before him, was to review the matter, undertake the proper legal research, review court cases which have granted expenses in other states to legislators who are bound by a similar provision of Constitution, study those cases and simply acknowledge that the first opinion was ill-conceived and mistakenly given and that senators as a matter of fact, can be granted expenses during session under the Constitution. So, I am asking that you will all vote to override the Governor's veto.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose this motion to override the Governor's veto and I would like to simply call your attention to the Attorney General's opinion on page 803. This was rendered to me on March 6 and in here the Attorney General goes back and explains why it is unconstitutional to allow expenses to the state senators during the session. Senator Chambers' bill as written does one thing. It authorizes the legislators to receive actual expenses during the session and this is what our Constitution says. It says, "Each member of the Legislature shall receive a salary not to exceed \$400 per month during his term of office." And here is where we come to the important part. "In addition to his salary each member shall receive an equal amount to his actual expenses in travelling by the most usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the Legislature." It doesn't say that we can go ahead and collect some of our expenses. I think that our Constitution is very clear and very distinct, but here Senator Chambers wants to turn these words around for us. It is true, Senator Chambers, you have diagnosed a problem and it is a very logical problem. I would like to receive my expenses too while I am down here because it costs a lot of money for us to rent a house or to drive back and forth and to pay for our meals