

I can guarantee you, that will be generated will be less than the amount of cost at the time we will spend in discussing and rediscussing this very issue over the next ten to fifteen to twenty years until such time as we lay the issue to rest either through a Constitutional amendment or else through a judicial interpretation through our high court. So it seems to me that we have gotten ourselves to a point where we ought to have the issue properly addressed by the courts and whatever the decision is, whatever the decision is, of course we will abide it and should it be that the Nebraska Supreme Court ultimately finds that the 1937 interpretation of the Constitution by the Attorney General is an incorrect interpretation, that finding by the Nebraska Supreme Court does not lock subsequent legislatures in to providing unlimited expenses for us. Every legislature will have the chance to determine a reasonable expense policy for the members and once that determination is made then reasonable expenses, whatever they might be, can be so allowed. So, I would not be discouraged from voting to override the Governor's veto out of concern that either this body or subsequent bodies go hog wild. That's bunkum. We will always act in the best interests of this state and our constituents and I think we will work out policies that are essentially fair and correct and right. I urge you to vote for the override.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, this is going to be a first, I think. I am going to oppose my good friend Senator Hefner and support my friend Senator Chambers. I think we have gone about as far as we can go with this thing and I feel myself that even if we would get a salary increase it is not going to solve our problems. We have a disparity in Nebraska of course, because we are quite a large state and our Capitol is not centered in the center of the state. Those of us living out West, and I only live about halfway, have a different set of expenses and I have kept track of my expenses the last number of years. I know what it costs me to be a state senator. So I think we should face up to the expense part of it and perhaps go to court. I have a real fear that when we go to court we are going to lose the expenses that we are getting now for our interim period. I think the court is going to find that may possibly be unconstitutional also but I'm willing to take that chance. I think we need to bring this to a head and find out if we can collect expenses. It is not really fair. Many of us that argue on this issue have other incomes and we have enough income so that we can give of our time and travel but it is really not fair to the citizens of Nebraska when everyone cannot be a state senator because of the financial burden.