

March 16, 1981

LB 206

Hefner said that he hoped everyone here would vote their conscience today. I hope in the short time I have been here I voted my conscience on every bill and I am voting my conscience today on Senator Chambers' bill to override the Governor's veto for the same reason that I support an increase in senators' salaries. I support the idea that they receive expenses. As I explained in our Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee when we considered bills to increase senators' salaries, it is my thinking that the people of the State of Nebraska have been shortchanged for many years because intelligent and dedicated men and women who could well serve this state in writing better laws than many of us and in defeating some laws that we should not pass, never have the opportunity to run because they can't afford it. I, myself, can afford to be here because I have the income of my husband and a small business that we own. The \$4,800 I receive, at least half of it is going to be spent travelling back and forth from Lincoln to Omaha and in some cases, spending the night here in Lincoln where weather is inclement or where I have to be here for such an early morning appointment that I wouldn't be able to make it by the time I drove home after a late night meeting and then back again. I further would like to point out to you, senators, that while the Governor has vetoed a bill that would give us expenses, the Governor himself takes expenses and if he feels that conscientious about the fact that we senators might abuse a privilege, perhaps next year we should consider a bill taking away the Governor's expenses and let him live on his salary. So, I am supporting this bill from the standpoint of my own conscience and I am not worried about the constituents in my district because when I explained to them that many of them could be right here today passing laws, if they were as fortunate as I to have other supplemental income or if they were already wealthy in their own right, they, too, could come down here with good ideas and help the people of Nebraska. I, therefore, support Senator Ernest Chambers' motion to override the Governor's veto and I hope the rest of you will vote your conscience the same as I am. Thank you, Mr. President and senators.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't know if any of you noted or really cared, but as this bill was progressing I deliberately avoided voting for it or against it and my good friend Howard said how come you are passing? Are you ducking the issue? And the answer is, no, I wasn't ducking the issue. It is