

hands and hope that that approach will be much more successful than the other approaches that we have taken in the past with bills out of this body. Now we have another bill, LB 138 which is on Select File. It would set the salary at one-third of the Governor's salary. Now I know that there is concern about that proposal, maybe it is not the best proposal, there are other ideas. This idea embodied in LB 531 to set the salary at \$800 has merit. Senator Cullan tells me that figures would indicate with inflation we would be at about \$1,100 right now if our salary had kept up from the original date which it was set at \$400. So, perhaps there are a number of ideas as well, perhaps we could set it at the medium average income of families in the State of Nebraska, so on and so forth, we have options which we can select a proposal that would increase our compensation. However, my feeling is we should take one bill and one bill alone and come to an agreement that forty members of this body can agree to now. If we can come up with that I know that will be pretty amazing but I think that we need to do that and we all have to decide on something that we can stick with and put it on the primary ballot and not mess with the general election ballot because Senator Johnson asked for an Attorney General's opinion which stated that if there were more than one ballot question, constitutional amendments, it would be quite confusing, especially to the voters, but more importantly perhaps legally as to what would be done if both ballots were to be passed or what the situation would be. My concern is that with the petition drive ready to be launched, ready to take the steps necessary to place on the fall ballot the constitutional amendment for us, we shouldn't muddy the waters by putting another proposal on that same fall ballot. So in moving to kill this bill it is not so much that LB 138 which is now on Select File is the only solution. Rather I would like to use that one bill to come to a consensus which forty members of this body can agree to and place that consensus legislation on the primary ballot and I think that is the best method we can pursue the idea of trying to increase our compensation. I strongly believe that. I think that is the approach that we should take and I certainly encourage your support for that effort.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm going to temporarily suggest we don't kill the bill and suggest another idea like Ford, a better idea. You know we all talk about salaries and every year since I have been here, and this is the eleventh year now, we have had something on the ballot on salaries. We have missed the most fundamental part of it all which I think we should be addressing. That is expenses. Just clear that issue up