

March 25, 1981

LB 311

fourteen years later, we are requesting with LB 311 that that ceiling again be adjusted to meet the current economy to deal with inflation and establish that ceiling at \$500 for the directors and \$600 for the chairmen with the proviso that they also be provided expenses for those costs that are incurred in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities on this board. I would move for the advancement of LB 311 to E & R Initial.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to rise in support of Senator Stoney's bill. I think when you can look at the responsibilities and the obligations that these very important directors have that it is only appropriate that they be compensated at a much more reasonable level. Particularly when you consider that this job, will as the City of Omaha grows and as the service area of this particular utility grows and we see the complexities involved, it is important that these people spend more than a few hours a week or a few hours a month on this job. If we can compensate them a little bit more, I think that we will see that they will be able to dedicate a little bit more time to carry out this specific function. So, I would urge you to support these amendments. I think that perhaps if I had drafted the bill, I would have requested even a little bit more money, but this is what Senator Stoney has done so I commend him for it and I urge you to support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members, I too would like to speak in support of LB 311. We have been doing this through the years with other board members that are carrying out a responsibility and I think sometimes we fail to realize how much time many of these board members that carry out the functions such as these, how much time they put in. Now we have been talking about our own salaries and how they are inadequate, the time that we put in, here we can help these people that we can help even though we can't help ourselves. I strongly support what we are trying to do here. I feel that it is fair. It is not going beyond that which is reasonable and these people that take the flak and take the criticism that they get because of rates and so on certainly desire to be compensated to some extent at least for the efforts and time that they put forth to carry out their responsibility.