

March 25, 1981

LB 111

we are not going to have the best enforcement of the law. I ask you to support LB 111.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body I concur with Senator Schmit in this position. I have a couple of judges in my district that are really under paid and they have a terrific work load. I feel that I owe it to them to reimburse them properly. If there is some concern about some areas that do not have much of a work load, let's split the area up some more. This can be done at a later time. At this time I do feel that we ought to advance the bill as it is. I think that this is a pretty good procedure because it ties it in with something. I remember a year or so ago that we discussed the judges' salary. We let the county judges fall by the way side, they did not get the increase and the rest did. I feel now that we can compensate them for what they really have coming to them. I urge you to advance this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I don't think Senator Schmit understood my position and I don't think that he understands what I am saying. I'm not talking about a dollar amount for these various judges. I have supported probably as consistently as anybody and more consistent than most every salary increase for anybody who comes across the board here. Especially the judges. I agree that they should be given a decent salary. What I am opposed to is tying all of the salaries to the amount that the chief justice and the other judges of the supreme court would receive. Now if Senator Schmit wants to offer a bill to pay the chief justice a hundred thousand dollars a year, I'll support him. So I'm not talking about a dollar amount, I'm talking about a principle. What has to be watched here is that the opposition to this bill is not designed to save money. If you support this bill, you may wind up in a position of holding every judge's salary down because you deal only with one level of court. That is the supreme court and if Senators become upset about what is happening in their particular area, then the supreme court is not going to get an increase and you can not deal with the other courts independently. You can not deal with any level of court independently of the Supreme Court if you accept this bill. If for any reason the Supreme Court falls out of favor, then you punish all of the judges by punishing the supreme court. It is like the supreme court becomes the