

May 7, 1981

LB 541

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I am going to support this bill, or this amendment. I do feel that the patrol officers do need it. They are entitled to it. And you talk about a new program, it isn't a new program. We already have a per diem or allowance, same thing. They are not going to get \$100. They are only going to get \$72 because they are now getting \$28. Furthermore, we only have 60 patrol on the road at one time in any given part of the day. Now that isn't very many patrolmen on the road. We have 280 patrol that are actually traffic patrol officers, but 60 of these are on the road at one time. Now this isn't going to cost too much, and I feel that they are entitled to it. Yes, I would rather see them get it in wages, but we seem to drag our feet and not give it to them in that particular line. Now they are out there on the call of duty. They are doing things that a lot of other state employees are not doing. Their life is in danger. I feel that they are really entitled to this per diem that we are trying to put on the bill. I highly endorse this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: We have ten minutes before lunch and I have got 8 lights on. Senator Cope is next.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I call the question.

SENATOR CLARK: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye. All those opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting aye.

SENATOR CLARK: Would you welcome, please, Senator John Savage. Just coming down. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator Nichol, do you wish to close?

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, may I give just a minute to Senator Higgins? She wanted to say a thing, and then I will close very briefly.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Senators. We are talking about highway patrolmen having a starting salary today of \$1102, and we are talking about giving them \$100 expenses. And Senator Marsh made the statement that