

April 5, 1982

LB 488A

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, but I want to ask him....

SENATOR CLARK: All right, Senator Goodrich. There he is. Senator Hefner has a question.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Goodrich, as you understand Senator Kahle's amendment, would this just be half the amount of your amendment?

SENATOR GOODRICH: The net cost to the state would be half the cost of my amendment, right. That is what I am talking about, the cost to the state. His amendment averaged over a four year period like that type of thing would be just about half of my amendment or in other words, about \$4,500.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: That is the first year incidentally.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, that is correct. I rise to support this amendment. I think this is a little fair. As I understand it it would be a 10% raise for the next four years so that would calculate, to me, to be approximately 2.5% a year and I am sure that the state employees are going to get more of a raise than that because I think we are proposing a 3.75 this year. So I think Senator Kahle is on the right track. I didn't support Senator Goodrich's amendment because I felt that was a little bit too much so, therefore, I would urge the body to go along with this amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I hate to interject myself in this fight. This is LB 488A on General File. Is that correct? And we are debating a long and hard what is the appropriate level of salaries to give to the state officers. I think at this point in time that we ought to recognize that what we do now will have an impact down the road and it is always regrettable that these issues come up in election years and because of that there tends to be some election rhetoric or thoughts or concerns and this is not a good year for any salary increase before this body. But I think that Senator Kahle's proposal is a nice way, there must be a nice way of saying, "too cheap", but since I can't think of one, I want to say it is too cheap. I think frankly that a 5% increase that Senator Goodrich proposed was not unreasonable and I can appreciate the need, however, to associate state officers with state employees and so I would urge the defeat of this amendment