

April 6, 1982

LB 761

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is returned. Senator Warner, on the amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I would move adoption of the amendment. I would be glad to respond to more questions.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any questions? Senator Chambers, your light is on.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We are discussing the amendment itself now, aren't we?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right, Mr. Chairman, I have to express opposition and I know this is not a divided issue so I am going to have to vote against the amendment but this reduction for Senator staffing I think is ill-advised. There are some of us who work very hard and I think it is demonstrated by what we do on the floor, the type of work we produce, and other indicia that you may find. Now my office serves something like that of an ombudsman's office. I receive complaints and requests for assistance, not just from my district, that is where the fewest come from because I can be caught when I am in Omaha, but from a lot of your districts. I get calls and requests for assistance. Now if we are going to have to establish priorities in terms of what we do in our offices, naturally if we are cutting, the first things I have to cut will be those types of things that don't relate directly to the people that I am sent here to represent. Which means that those letters and calls that I get from your district, I will simply have to refer them to you and say, I am not going to try to help you, it cuts me too thin, I don't get paid a salary, first of all. Now we are traveling in such a tightfisted fashion that I don't have the time or the means to respond to the issues that you have brought to me. There are other Senators here whose names are not known in their districts. Nobody knows where they go when they leave home. Nobody knows when they come back when they come back and a lot of people don't even know that they have gone or come back. Do you know how I know this? I am asked questions by people and they tell me where they live and they say who is my Senator? And I go through the book and I tell them the best that I can. So I am going to speak in behalf of myself and those others who work hard. It is too easy to make public statements designed to give the impression that we are cutting spending and cutting our own throats, but remember this, the public is very fickle. When they praise you

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