

January 30, 1989

LB 177

all voted? Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 20 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to adopt.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Now we are back to the bill, Senator Pirsch is next, then Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question for Senator McFarland, if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I am always dubious of questions but I will be glad to respond as best I can, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator McFarland, the 80,000, soon to be 81,500 next year, was given to us in the fiscal note, and identified as \$40,000 for the protocol officer. Do you know how that amount was arrived at or who projected that cost?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes, I can show you a memo. I don't have it right with me. I probably have it in my file that I can look up, that was Senator Johnson's estimate when he introduced the bill last year. I suspect the \$40,000 was primarily salary because it would be a salaried position. I don't know. I am sure there would have to be staff and other things as far as a protocol officer is concerned.

SENATOR PIRSCH: It does cover a half-time clerical position.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And that is the 9,000.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: That is right, and my understanding, too, is that according to Secretary of State Beermann, there are at least two people who could serve in that capacity admirably, have done this type of work in the past, that he can suggest right away. So I can show you the memo from Senator Johnson. As I recall, the memo stated that this was the maximum amount that would be used. He gave it every benefit of the doubt, said this is the maximum, we could probably get by with much less, and I notice the advisory board expenses would not be necessary now.