

(START BELT #1)

SEN. CARPENTER: I have on the Clerk's desk a short editorial which I would like to have the clerk read. And at the conclusion I have a motion up there for the body to consider.

CLERK: The editorial is labeled above and beyond the call of duty. The lot of a Nebraska State Trooper is not an easy one. It may not be happy either but by and large the State Patrol goes about its work quietly and without complaint and effectively most Nebraskans would probably say. Yet just how demanding but unrewarding is the monetary sense at least a troopers job can be was detailed in the store in the Lincoln Journal last week. A trooper is hired to work 50 hours a week, 10 hours a day for five days. But in a years time the average patrolman puts in hundreds of hours of overtime without pay. Seldom can a trooper obtain compensatory time off. Further a trooper starts at \$580 a month, less pay than Lincoln or Omaha policeman or the average paid patrolman in the nation. The average wait for promotion is five years. Health insurance is costly. No extra pay is given for in college credits. The situation is not new. In the past, the patrol has requested fund for overtime pay, but has had no success at the statehouse. This year the patrol is seeking more troopers, both to cut down unpaid overtime and to improve law enforcement. So far this policy of lots of work and little pay has had only intangible results so it is obvious that at present strength troopers cannot patrol all roads of the state. But the troopers turnover rate compares with that of neighboring states and there continue to be more applicants than jobs to fill. The handwriting may be starting to show up on the wall however. Eight troopers quit in 69, 11 in 70 and 14 last year. This could be a trend. Nebraskans presumably want good law enforcement. That require a trooper not burdened with crippling work load, one with good morale and able to retain qualified experienced officers. The state patrol appears to be providing service above and beyond the call of duty. The Legislature, now in session, might well ask itself whether the troopers are not being rewarded below and short of our call of other duties. The duty of simple justice and the duty to see that a good law enforcement is assured for the future.

SEN. CARPENTER : Now Mr. President, there is a motion on the clerks desk which I ask him to read and then I move for its adoption.

CLERK: Mr. President, I move that whereas 80-1001 requires a basic work week of 40 hours for state employees and whereas this section would infer that state employees should be working excess of 40 hours, I move that we direct the budget committee to bring in a deficit appropriation bill to reimburse the patrolmen employed by the state patrol for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week, through to and including December 31, 1971, signed Senator Carpenter.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now Mr. President, the Highway Patrol is one of our first lines of defense, so to speak, and it seems to me that we cannot longer expect them to work the hours they are presently working without at least reimbursing on a basis of straight time for the work that they work over 40 hours a week. This Legislature, not this one, but the previous Legislatures in Section 84-1001 has indicated and set as a state policy that the work week by those employed by this state is a 40 hour work week. It doesn't say within itself that they should be paid for hours above 40 but I would presume that by implication if you're going to set a work week of 40, you don't automatically authorize the department head, or whoever has the responsibility