

January 17, 1974

(Start Belt #1)

PRESIDENT: We will have prayer by Reverend Everett Hezmall, substituting for our regular chaplain. Rev. Hezmall is the associate pastor at Westminister Presbyterian Church.

CHAPLAIN: Prayer.

PRESIDENT: Roll call. Please indicate your presence. Once again, have you indicated your presence. Clerk will record.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President. Mr. President, Senator Marvel asked to be excused until noon.

PRESIDENT: Are there objections to Senator Marvel's absence?

CLERK: Yes, but I announce that Mr. Fred Seaton passed away last evening.

PRESIDENT: Any objection to Senator Marvel's absence? Carrying on, so ordered. The Chair recognizes Speaker Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President, the other day Senator Syas asked me if I had a target date for completion of committee hearings. Well, I have checked what we did in 1972, which was a 60-day session. At that time, 426 bills were introduced by the 10th day. This session we have 382 bills introduced as of the 10th day. In 1972, we went into full time session on the 33rd legislative day which was February 18. However, we didn't start until January 4. If we go by the same program, approximately the same time schedule, the 33rd day for this year would be February 15 if we don't take any days off. Now, if you want a target date, whatever that means, I'll say February 15. That may be too soon. I'll have to reevaluate that but I would say this much. That I would urge all committee chairmen to act expeditiously as possible on their bills. Remembering at the same time that they all should have full public hearings. In the next week as we get into this we'll better to able analyze when we can go into full day session. However, this information does exemplify the problems we have with a short session. And, in that regard, Tuesday I was in Sacramento, California, and I couldn't believe the situation they have there. They are in session more or less constantly. However, and this is important to everyone of us as far as this increase in salary will be on the ballot to, what is it, \$675? It's very important, I hope you will listen to this. Certainly the people in the State of Nebraska, as far as legislative salaries are concerned, certainly have a bargain. Because in California, recognizing they have more people and all that, their salaries, the legislative salaries, are \$21,000. They have a \$30 per diem. Every day they show up, they get this \$30 per diem. They each have a state owned automobile. They have a gas credit card. The assemblyman I talked with has 3 full time secretaries and a full time administrative assistant. You can read these statistics and that's one thing but actually see it in operation is quite another. So I'm just saying the people, if they increase our salaries to \$675, will still be getting quite a bargain. Now, a few years ago in California, they had trouble with offices. In fact, it was so bad that Assemblyman Wakefield, his office was in the men's toilet. He gave me this picture which I will pass around of the conditions they had there at that time. Although we have improved ours, we certainly have a long ways to go and I'll ask the page to pass this picture around. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As Senator Proud, Speaker Proud asked me to ask the chairmen of the committees what would be the earliest date that we could have full day sessions, I received two responses. One was not before February 15th.