## COMMUNICATION FROM THE GOVERNOR.

State of Minnesota, Executive Department. St. Paul, April 14, 1927.

Hon. John A. Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sir: I am returning herewith without my approval H. F. No. 323, "A bill for an act providing for compensation to the members of the Senate and House of Representatives."

This bill provides that the compensation of members of the Legislature shall be increased by one-half. Although it is my conviction that any upward adjustment of legislative salaries should await a reduction in the number of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, it is not my purpose to urge such reduction at this time. Nor do I deem it necessary to consider whether \$1000 or \$1500 measures the value of the time of a member during a session. I am not going to try to estimate the value of the services given the State, because if the object of paying a salary were to compensate for services rendered there would probably have to be as many salary scales as there are differences of talent and capacity.

There is no disposition on my part to undervalue the services of members of the law-making body. Indeed, in many cases they are worth much more than the salary proposed. He who discerns a wrong and find a way to right it; who discovers and formulates a principle to correct some social or economic maladjustment, leaves society his debtor however generous his compensation.

He places too low an estimate on the worth of faithful public service who measures it in terms of dollars. Men do not go to the Legislature for pay, but rather for opportunity to serve. Their compensation is in the satisfaction that comes to any man who is selected by his fellow-citizens for great responsibility and who meets that responsibility creditably. In the service of the State, "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

To be sure, there must be a salary provided. But it is given, not to compensate for time or skill or effort, but in order that lack of wealth or income shall not bar any man who is qualified, from representing the people if they draft him for service. Membership in the Legislature, like service on the jury, is not intended to furnish income or livelihood. It is rather the contribution which patriotism exacts as a part of the price of citizenship. It is my conviction that no man is so poor that he cannot afford to serve the State ninety days for \$1000. If his usual earnings are less, he will not complain; if it is more, he should not, for he can afford to make the sacrifice.

A salary increase for members of the Legislature at this time would probably be misunderstood, especially if it were made effective during the present term of those who voted to support it. It might bring severe, although undeserved, censure on those whose motives in supporting it were wholly honorable and unselfish. It might shake the confidence of the people in the sincerity of the efforts which are being made to hold down public expenditures. It would furnish an argument to those who are ever prone to challenge the disinterestedness of government.

It is with reluctance that I set my own judgment against that of

the legislative majority who supported this proposal. But I should not be doing my full duty to them and I should not be true to my constitutional obligation if I did not frankly and unequivocally express my disapproval.

Respectfully submitted,

THEODORE CHRISTIANSON,
Governor.

## SUSPENSION OF RULES.

Mr. Norton moved that rules be so far suspended as to give

S. F. No. 1025, A bill for an act to amend subdivision B of Section 2693 of the Statutes of Minnesota for 1923, relating to the powers of the Registrar of motor vehicles of the State of Minnesota.

Its third reading and place it upon its final passage.

Which motion prevailed.

Mr. Norton moved to amend S. F. No. 1025 by striking out of lines 4 and 5 of Section 1 of the printed bill the following words: "purchase or rent of such supplies and to purchase or rent such office and accounting machine" where said words occur in said lines.

And further amend said Senate File by inserting between the word "power" and the word "to" where said words occur in line 3 of Section 1 of the printed bill the words: "subject to Chapter 426, General Laws of Minnesota for 1925".

And further amend said Senate File by inserting immediately after line 29 of the printed bill the following:

"Supplies, accounting machines and office space required to enable the Registrar to properly carry out the duties imposed upon him by the provisions of this Act may be rented or purchased as provided by existing law. The provisions of this act shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 426 of the General Laws of Minnesota for 1925 and shall not be held or construed to modify, limit or restrict any of the provisions thereof."

Which motion prevailed and the amendments were adopted.

S. F. No. 1025, A bill for an act to amend subdivision B of Section 2693 of the Statutes of Minnesota for 1923, relating to the powers of the Registrar of motor vehicles of the State of Minnesota.

Was read the third time as amended and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill, as amended, And the roll being called, there were yeas 91 and nays 2, as follows: Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Adams, Cullum, Aldrich, Dalager, Anderson, G.A., Dammann, Anderson, T. E., Davidson, Arvik, Day, Atwood, Enstrom, Barsness, Erickson, Blodgett, Escher, Blum, Fabel, Campbell, Farmer, Chilgren, Finstuen, Christenson, Connell, Glende, Graham,	Green, Hart, Hastings, Hazel, Herfindahl, Hofstad, Holladay, Holm, Hompe, Hulbert, Iverson, Johnson, G. W., Johnson, H. A.,		McDonough, McKnight, Masek, Mayman, Merritt, Morton, Moser, Naylor, Nellermoe, Nelson, H. S., Nelson, N. J., Neuman, Norton,
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