71st Day]

Wednesday, April 20, 1927.

Adams, Day, Lee. Millett. Morin, Anderson. Duemke. Lemm, Naplin, Bessette, Hanson, Lilygren, Nelson, Blanchard. Hausler, Lommen. Nordlin, Bonniwell, Hougen, Long, Lund, C. A., Bridgeman, Olson, Johnson, Brooks, Johnston, Lund, L. P., Orr, Landby, MacLean. Peterson. Cannon. Carley, Larson, H. A., McCubrey, Ribenack, Mangan, Child. Lawson, Richardson.

son, Sullivan, G. H.,
dlin, Thwing,
nn, Traxler,
Widell,

Schmechel, Sharpe,

Solberg,

1341

So the bill was re-passed and its title agreed to.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. Rockne moved that the Senate request the conferees on the part of the Senate as to H. F. No. 1335, to again seek conference with the conferees on the part of the House, and in the event that they cannot agree, that they so report to their respective Houses and that a new Conference Committee then be appointed.

Which motion prevailed.

EXECUTIVE AND OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

State of Minnesota, Executive Department. St. Paul, April 20, 1927.

Hon. W. I. Nolan, President of the Senate.

Sir: I return herewith without approval,

S. F. No. 577, A bill for an act to legalize certain payments of salary heretofore made and to authorize the payment of additional salary to county commissioners in certain counties.

The Legislature in 1919 enacted a new classification law under which the salaries of county commissioners in twelve counties were reduced

from \$800 to \$600.

The commissioners in two of these counties accepted the reduction without objection; those in three counties secured orders from local courts permitting them to draw the old salaries; those in six counties were excluded from the operation of the law by special acts passed in 1921.

The commissioners of the remaining county, without legal authority and despite repeated warnings from the Public Examiner, continued to vote themselves the excess salary until a body of tax-payers secured a restraining order. One of the commissioners began mandamus proceedings. The district court, which denied a writ, was sustained on appeal by the Supreme Court.

The present bill seeks to validate salary payments which the courts have declared illegal. If it is allowed to become effective it will serve to create the impression among the people that law is but a thing of the hour: that the acts of one Legislature are likely to be undone by the next, and that the calm decisions of the courts are not to

be taken seriously.

Furthermore, inas nuch as the commissioners, in other counties, who elected to obey the law, would not enjoy the increased salaries provided in this bill, they would in effect be punished for their respect for the statute. Surely, if the law is ever to permit discrimination, it should not permit it in the interests of those who ignore the statutes and against the interests of those who abide by them.

Respectfully yours,

THEODORE CHRISTIANSON, Governor.