

employees of the State, give them a higher percentage increase than those higher paid salary people, I feel that this would not be the proper approach; that perhaps you should give a greater percentage increase to the lower paid county officials and it would seem to me that since the State has not increased by 25% in the past four years, that this might be just a little high. And then in regards to putting in a cost of living factor, everybody expects an increase in wages, more than just the cost of living. You expect an increase in wages equal to increase of productivity of a society, of an economy which is normally higher than just the cost of living increase and therefore, I'd like to suggest that those of you who are considering putting an amendment on this, simply to tie it to some national index of increase of cost in living, I don't feel that even though its constitutional, that it's a good thing to do so I would recommend you not go that course and just assume that every four years we have to come here in the Legislature and set the minimum salary.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Speaker and Members: I think there is one thing that we might remember. Earlier in the discussion today on, I think it was L.B. 198, we talked about giving more duties to the County Clerk. Now if this body is going to be assigning additional duties and trying to expect more of county officials, we shouldn't pass the heat on salaries just to the County Board. I think that we should assume a certain amount of responsibility for setting salaries and if additional duties are provided by the County Board, they in turn can raise those salaries higher. So I think that we should pass Senator Anderson's bill.

SPEAKER: Thank you Senator Fowler. Senator DeCamp, did you wish to be recognized again? Your light is still on.

SENATOR DECAMP: I just have a question of Senator Anderson.

SPEAKER: O.K. Senator Anderson, will you yield to another question? Go ahead.

SENATOR DECAMP: Is this raise projected primarily to make up for the last four years or to make up for the next four? It's been my observation that on all these, on all these salary raises when the people come into the committee, they usually say, well it hasn't been raised for four years and then they also argue in the same breath, we have to raise it enough to compensate for the next four years and I'm wondering whether we're compensating for the next four or the last four and whether in four years then we're going to come and say again we haven't raised it for four years so we better make up for that. So I'm wondering what raise we're doing here. The last four or the next four?

SENATOR ANDERSON: I think this is a judgment call, really, if you're looking, if you're concerned about the level of county official salaries, it may be simply an upgrading. I don't think anybody can really answer that question with any certainty, I think it's simply reflecting a concern to continue to bring salaries up to a level where they should be.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Stromer.

SENATOR STROMER: Yes, Mr. President, would Senator Anderson yield to another question, please?

SPEAKER: Senator Anderson, will you yield?

SENATOR ANDERSON: Yes.