

a barrier. The distance becomes more expensive for those people to serve in the Legislature. The distance there is precluding too many people from serving in the Legislature. I'm not sure I support your amendment, Senator Koch, but I am sure that I support the philosophy as presented in 153. There needs to be some kind of pay raise for the members of the Legislature. I don't know what that amount is. I had thought about a per diem during legislative session, but if this amendment fails I will offer such an amendment. Senator Koch, I think that you owe and so does Senator Newell and your Committee owe to this Legislature, to develop here and debate every bit of information that you possibly can give to us so that we can go out and also work for this bill as several of us did in 1976, of course, without success. I hope that you will explain further the merits and demerits of this very important piece of legislation. It does affect the state. It affects what is going to come in the future, those persons who can make themselves available. Thank you.

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Read the motion.

CLERK: I move to amend the Committee amendment to LB 153 on line 9 strike "equal to" and insert "not more than." That is offered by Senator Burrows.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Burrows. The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: I support the Committee amendments and the thought of them and I think this word change would be palatable to the voters. It changes where it says equal to the median family income. If this word change is placed on the amendment, it would read, not more than the median family income. I think it is a palatable way of telling the citizens of this state that they are going to limit the legislative salaries to the median family income of the State of Nebraska. I think if we go this route, I think the citizens will allow this constitutional amendment. If we raise dollar amounts, I don't think they will and I think it is a fair situation that the Legislature should be able to get as a legislative salary one equal to the median family income. I urge you to look at this word change which I think will make the amendment much more palatable to people. It would allow the legislative salaries to be less than the median family income but would allow it. Okay. The amendment changes the words and strikes the words "equal to the median family income". It changes it to "not more than the median family income". It is a restrictive passage and I think it makes the amendment more palatable by setting a lid with the amendment on the legislative salaries which would allow them to go to the median family income but not necessarily so. If we had a trouble in budget we could set the salaries below the median family income and I would urge the members to adopt this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Now speaking to the Burrows amendment. Those of you who wanted to speak on the Committee amendment, do you wish to speak on the... All right, Senator Marsh, I will recognize you first.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Burrows proposed amendment. I think this is good wording. We may choose not to have it be