

having the newly elected officers start with their term with their salary at the mid point between their present salary and the salary proposed initially in the bill. Their salaries would then have three incremental increases. Are we talking about taking newly elected officers...I don't understand the newly elected officers? Is there someone from the committee to explain (inaudible)?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Higgins, I am sure what the intent of the committee is...the Constitution of Nebraska prohibits a change in the salary for a constitutional officer during the term for which that person is elected. Commencing January 1, 1987, is a new term of office. It can be the same people, but a new term of office. That is what they are relating to, and that is the fact that the new term of office will commence. That is the only time...some time prior to that is the only time a change can be made in salary. Incidentally, if you go back and read the constitutional history, the reason that that provision is in the Constitution is to prevent the Legislature from attempting to coerce an executive constitutional officer by threatening to reduce their salary or reward them for some action. It has a very sound constitutional basis that they can only be adjusted prior to the time that individuals take office.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Warner. I don't really know as I can go along with the amendment if the amendment addresses the idea of these increments in '87, '88, '89 and '90. If the amendment just states that they can't have a raise while they are in office, or until their next term, that is different. I'm not sure whether I want to address the amendment or the bill. But in looking at the increases I think we are looking at a crystal ball. This is 1985 and we are predicting in 1990 things are going to be so good in the State of Nebraska that the Governor will be needing or deserving \$80,000 a year, and the Attorney General...I guess they don't have it...\$61,000 and something, or \$65,500, the Secretary of State \$55,000. I just don't understand why we are going so many years ahead. In looking at 1987 I see the Attorney General getting a 30 percent increase, the Governor getting from 40 to 60, maybe a 30 percent increase. I'm wondering how this body will vote when it comes time to increase other government employees salaries. I mean we are