

lobbying for this, they have a job to do because they're paid to do it. We have a job to do because we are feeling, compassionate, caring lawmakers for the people and we all stumble on occasion, we all go astray. This is an opportunity to help Senator Hannibal come a little closer to that straight line that he loves to walk as much as I do.

SENATOR LAMB: Time has expired, Senator. The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm sorry, Senator Chambers, I didn't get to hear all of your speech. I was being lobbied by another senator on another bill. I do understand Senator Chambers' explanation though when he first started to talk about a person being given a million dollar award and not being able to spend all of it on investments. Yes, if you had a million dollars, I'm sure you can get 10 percent interest on it because the more you invest, the higher the rate of interest they will give you usually on those CDs or whatever. I guess you're right, Senator Chambers, a million dollar award probably the attorneys get 40 or 50 percent of that, so you're cut down to a half a million. I don't know whether or not the juries take that into consideration, but I'm told that when they make these awards they do take into consideration cost of living and all the other various things that you mentioned. They use a factor or something to decide what amount to give someone. But I think what I...I'm thinking about now is we're talking about municipalities, governmental subdivisions. Who are the municipalities? Who are the governmental subdivisions? That's the taxpayers. So what we're asking here is, do the taxpayers want to give an increase every three years to those people who have been injured to compensate them for inflation? Inflation, I am told, has been going down. Ronald Reagan says it has. The Omaha World Herald has said it has come down. I'm wondering how this bill will work, you know, what are you going to determine how much an increase someone should have every three years. Those are some of the questions I have. Is it fair to the other people who, once they make an agreement in court or out of court, they say, yes, this is what we'll settle for. Me and my attorney will split a million dollars. I mean, that's the decision they make at the time they are in court. Now if the attorney is a smart attorney and a negligence attorney or personal injury attorney, he is probably going to think about inflation and he is going to