

this amendment. Like I said before, I think we have a good judicial system. We have good judges in the system. I don't have any qualms about the appointments. I know years ago we did have election of judges, but now we have appointments, and I don't have any qualms about that. We have a fine judicial system. Someone also mentioned that some of the judges don't live up to our standards. I'm not offering this amendment for that. Others talked about the vacation and long hours. This amendment isn't talking about that. What this amendment is talking about is the 3 percent increase instead of the 5 percent. I think this 3 percent increase is more in line with what we give some of our other employees, state employees. Senator Vard Johnson and Senator Schmit have mentioned many times on the floor that we don't have enough money for the poor and underprivileged. This, if we go with the 3 percent instead of the 5 percent, we would have just a little more, little more money for the little person. We would leave more in the budget for the poor and underprivileged. Five percent increase on a \$60,000 salary is \$3,000 a year, then we go ahead and compound that. Also, judges retirement is figured on a percentage of their salary. Let me reiterate again, I think we have a fine judicial system. But I believe the 3 percent is fair and in line with some of the other salaries that we set. Let me point out another thing, how about our college professors. How about our colleges professors? Don't they deserve more than a 3 percent increase. They are under stress. How about our State Patrolmen? Understand last year that they didn't even get an increase. We did give them a 3 percent increase, but for some reason they didn't receive it. I understand now they are about ready to settle and they will get an increase. But I could go on and on. Why do we treat one segment different than the other? I would say go along with the 3 percent increase. When the state economy improves, well, then we can certainly, if we think they need it, we can give them more of an increase then. Let me call to your attention again, inflation is down. Inflation is real low now, so I think the 3 percent would be fair and just at this time. I would urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. The question is, shall the Hefner amendment to LB 564 be adopted? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. On the Hefner amendment. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker, how many are excused?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Five are excused at the present time.