

March 10, 1988

LB 1040A

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...you're asking to increase the chairman from 38,500 to 45,000. Is that a 15 percent increase or...I know it is more than 10, is it 20?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It's about \$8,000, I mean about \$7,000.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What percentage of an increase is that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Higgins, not trying to be facetious, smart aleck or anything else, I'm a state senator, not a mathematician.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, I'm just like you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, here is the, right, look...the reason...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Is it a 20 percent increase, Ernie?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Probably something like that, but I don't want to deal with the percentage because I think there is a dollar amount that ought to be paid and that's why I didn't write a percentage on there. If it would have been 50 percent to bring it up to this level, then I would have done that. In the same way that if our salary is looked at that we're asking for in terms of a percentage increase, it is more than 100 percent. But when you start at such a low level you deal with a dollar figure rather than the percentage, so that's why I didn't talk about it from a percentage standpoint.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Okay, thank you, Senator. I don't think I can join my friend, Senator Chambers, in this increase. First of all, I hear so many people in Omaha, every time they read the World-Herald and they see where somebody was sentenced to 30 years and he is paroled in five years and then, bingo, he's out in six months and he has gone and committed another crime for which we have to go through all the expense of giving them a trial and appeals, et cetera, et cetera, and they go right back in. I think this is the feeling of the people that I visit with. They don't think a great deal of this Parole Board. They don't think they are doing their job and I'm inclined to agree with them when I see the number of people that are paroled and go right back to the prison system. That is not so bad, I can understand them not being rehabilitated. There isn't a whole lot in that penitentiary to rehabilitate anybody, but to give