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LB 683

Senators Chambers and Redfield. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. On the overrides of the budget, I spoke about how the Governor had been quite measured in what he had done and that we should hold out an olive branch because he had held out an olive branch to us. Well, now we've gotten to the point in time (laugh) where the Legislature needs to assert itself. I will not be voting on this override. I was not voting on the bill on Final Reading. Mine is more about the process of the committee than it is about the merits. I believe that we do need to give the constitutional officers an increase in salary. I'm just not comfortable with how we arrived at what that was. I would have preferred to stay with the committee's work, but we need to do this despite what was said in the veto message. The last time we did this was two years ago. It was four years late, and so we need to do it now. I would urge you to vote differently than I will and override the Governor's veto and assert the appropriateness of the Legislature. I find it interesting that...the assertion of the amount that the Governor would be paid in the veto message. I wonder if he was trying to say that he does not believe that he's worth the \$114,000, (laugh) I...by addressing that amount specifically in the veto message. But this is something that we do not for the particular individuals, not for any other reason but that it has to be done for the continued good functioning of the state of Nebraska. And so I've taken back the olive branch for today. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. On with discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have always supported increases in salary for the constitutional officers. Never have we been anyplace near what those salary amounts ought to be. In collaboration with Senator Stuhr, I arrived at the figures that I felt would be reasonable, which would place Nebraska about midway among those states within this region. So, as Senator Schimek pointed out, if we override the Governor's veto, make these modest increases, and that's all they are, they are modest, from now on there can be small incremental increases as we do other employees. Sometimes when