

is trying to put before us now. Let the Legislature by its majority determine what that salary should be. I observed this body since I have been here, and this is my fifth session and each two years we talk about how we are going to get a reasonable salary for hours spent and endeavors attempted. Each time this body gives the bill about thirty votes. Never enough to put it on the primary, but just enough to get it on the general. I submit to you that when this body shows by its courage that you can put a bill before the people 49 to 0 they may say there is some credibility. But for us to stand here and whip the press today and to whip others who really have no voting power on this floor, at the present time, is not very fair either. We have a good bill in LB 99. It is a reasonable bill. It establishes a commission that can be made up of a broad segment of the State of Nebraska citizenry. All interest groups and I am willing to live by their decision. The check is in there as well. If the Legislature in its wisdom feels as though the amount recommended is too great, they can reject it or reduce it. I think that that is the way to go about this. Every two years this Legislature wouldn't haggle over constitutional salaries, how much the governor is worth, how much the judiciary system is worth and how under paid the legislature is and how willing we are to serve for nothing. The fact is some of us might be willing to serve for nothing. But the fact is that is not the best way to get people who may be eligible to serve to run for this office. Senator Schmit says that the same kind of people would run. I doubt that. I really believe the only way you are going to get all kinds of people to run for this position is to have a reasonable salary where they can actually take the time to do it and devote much of their effort to the business of carrying on the state affairs. But for us to adopt Senator Schmit's amendment this afternoon, I do not think is wise. This body is very political as you know. They will go home, they probably will not support this, the Legislature set its own salary. They will say, oh no that is too political. I say the most unbiased way for this to happen is to keep the commission as LB 99 would intend it to be. Then allow this body to have certain checks. That way we will get to use our time to, I think, a better purpose by not having to divulge ourselves in certain kinds of games like we do every two years on who should be paid, how much they should be paid or to what extent it should be. I ask you to defeat Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I wholeheartedly support, Mr. Speaker and