

extravagant other allowances. I don't know if they are that extravagant or not. I never had the privilege of finding out, although I tried. But I would suggest to you that whatever you do the people are not going to entrust the salary setting mechanism to a commission for the very fact that the commission is autonomous. It hides. It isn't something that you can put your finger on. There is no way when you go back home and tell the folks back home that the commission set a salary of \$25,000 for the Legislature, we are not going to explain to them that we had the right to reject it. Oh the Congress can do that. The Congress can reject that salary but you know what happens? It is a question of eeny, meeny, miney, moe. Now here we have a little bit more protection than the Congress has. Back there each of them has to run every two years. But here we only run every four years. So, you know we very carefully pass, if we go the commission route and we don't reject the salary the commission proposes, then we decide lets see, Martin Kahle doesn't run, Schmit doesn't run, Clark doesn't run so it is safe for those guys to vote for the salary. Then in the case when it gets down to wire cutting and it is kind of nip and tuck we bring in Howard Lamb, he is from a safe district, Senator Maresch runs strong down there he can vote for it, Senator Labeledz comes from a safe district, we can throw that group together if people really like them real well so we can get this thing taken care of. But again we hide behind something else. We hide behind an unidentifiable force which establishes salaries. It becomes a symbol far out of proportion to all the cost of government. I just saw the governor step in this chamber a few minutes ago. We set the governor's salary, we set all of the other salaries for state government. Sometimes they like it, sometimes they don't. But we establish those salaries. Then why is it so incredible that we establish our own? I see that there is no way in the world that you can duck that responsibility. There is no way that you can hide behind somebody else. My good friend Senator Johnson who respectfully disagrees with me, I wish he showed less respect and voted for me. But I think this, Senator Johnson, you will find over the years that one of the most tiring debate on this floor is the annual debate over salary. I spend more money on my automobile than this salary amounts to. Wild horses couldn't keep me from driving back and forth every day. That is what I choose to do. There are members of this Legislature who live in western Nebraska who have a tremendously greater burden. We recognize that and that can be recognized and acknowledged and dealt with if we establish a salary and do it ourselves. As long as it is a part of the Constitution, that will not be dealt with. We act as