

May 8, 1979

LB 398

attracting much public notice, the Judiciary has been highly successful in push-pull compensation strategy dealing with the Unicameral. One year salaries have been increased, then the next year senators improve judicial retirement benefits based on length of service and final salary levels. At this point the state's judicial pension program is as generous as any available for Nebraska state officials and better than most, and any balanced judgment about compensation for judges should incorporate guaranteed pension benefits, rewards not available to private attorneys. The consultants who developed the '78 study apparently were not instructed to take that kind of comprehensive look. Inflation erodes the purchasing power of judges just as it does all of the other men and women in public and private work force, and no one of any responsibility contends judicial compensation levels should not be periodically weighed by this Legislature, but the record hardly supports a view that Nebraska judges" and notice this exception, Senator Reutzel, "except perhaps for county judges outside of Douglas, Lancaster and Sarpy Counties, have been treated shabbily by the Legislature in take-home pay or fringe benefits. No case has been made for abandonment of that system now in place". I oppose the DeCamp-Reutzel amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, a question of Senator DeCamp.

PRESIDENT: Senator...

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator DeCamp, it's getting late and I'm going to be brief...

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: ...and this is for the record because I've talked to you about it...

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: This amendment brings the Workmen's Court judges to \$44,382?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: And that's equal to the district court judges of \$44,382?