

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I also support Senator Warner's amendment. In visiting the Regional Center last spring, I found that one of the difficulties out there was because of a large turnover in employees. If we would just pay those employees more salaries, I am sure that we could have a better system. I also feel that if we'd be paying those employees a little more money, we could do away with some of the training staff that is there at the present time and actually save the State of Nebraska money. There is considerable staff there just to train employees. So I see a great need for a better salary pay for the state employees. I urge you to support this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, members, we may have a tremendous turnover but I don't know where they are going. Iowa is not going to give any percentage points this year in raises. The federal government is only giving six percent federal raises. Now this money is supposed to be paid, the way I understand it, if the departments have the money left over. If they have it left over, it goes back to the state anyway so actually we are paying it the same way. With wheat down eleven cents this morning, the farm income is down, could be sixteen to eighteen percent less income to the state this year, I think the Governor is perhaps right when he goes eight percent on the increase instead of eleven. I think we ought to take a long hard look at this. You talk about this job not paying anything, that is perhaps true. You knew what it was when you took it. You knew you weren't going to get a raise either, probably won't this year. If ADC is getting more than we are, the only thing I can say then we are paying too much on ADC. We shouldn't try to bring this up there, we should bring the other one down. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: A question of Mr. Warner, please, or Senator Warner. What was the increase for the state salaries last year?

SENATOR WARNER: The fiscal year increase, Senator Haberman, was seven percent, July 1.

SENATOR HABERMAN: How much?

SENATOR WARNER: The fiscal year increase was seven percent on July 1.