

people of the state do have some real concern as to precisely how our system of justice is handled and how the judiciary itself performs. On the other hand I can appreciate how judges become extremely vexed and very angry at having to come every now and then to ask for a pay raise sort of hat in hand to justify their conduct and the like. But it seems to me that that may well be the price of doing business, that even a judge from time to time will have to step down from the dais and will have to say to the legislature we too, like everybody else, needs a pay raise and we can justify our conduct. The one final point that I want to make is this. I have some problem, believe it or not, with a relative.... with the relativity of the pay. I see for example that a municipal court and a county court judge is to earn 85% of what the supreme court justice earns. We put the municipal court and county court judge lower down on the pecking order so to speak than a supreme court justice and yet you know that a county court judge and a municipal court judge is on the front line, so to speak, in the area of delivery of justice to people. It is the municipal court judge, a county court judge is going to see the criminal at the first shot, i.e. through the preliminary hearing or the misdemeanor case. It is the county court judge or the municipal court judge that is going to see the small claims claimant at the first shot in a small claims court. It is the county court judge or the municipal court judge that is going to be involved in collection actions. It is the county court judge that is going to be involved in the probate of wills. In other words that is where justice is being administered every day. Not from the rarefied tower of the supreme court which in the quiet of the chambers and in the quiet of the day he can pass on law, but in the hurly burly of the county and municipal court rooms and yet we provide those folk a lower slot in the pecking order than anybody else. In my opinion if we really want to exhalt peoples justice, which I think we should, they ought to be at the top of the pecking order and not at the bottom. So I think in the end on balance, I tend to oppose the concept of tying salary to the supreme court judges through a formula. I would rather the old system operate with all of its creeks and its groans and its stresses and its pains but also with the joy, with the joy that comes and are having an earnest and honest give and take with the judiciary over the state of justice in this state.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the legislature, I rise to oppose this bill and I certainly can appreciate Senator Chronister's thinking in that this puts all the