

March 30, 1981

LB 111

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What was done to the Workmen's Compensation Court judges?

SENATOR NICHOL: I believe they took a little reduction, didn't they?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right. And then what was...(interruption).

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't recall exactly how much.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The dollar amount doesn't matter. What other category of judges received a reduction in establishing the base?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't recall any did...let's see, there was some discussion about the county judges. I don't have those figures in front of me and I haven't looked at them since then.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I don't want the figures.

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't believe that any other did, but it is possible that one of the county judges in one category may, but I don't recall that they did. I think the Workmen's Comp was the only one.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, all I wanted was to get a broad statement as Senator Nichol gave, but there have been discussions of setting judges' salaries and the Workmen's Comp judges were not a part of all of those discussions. They were the only category of judges given a reduction when these salary schedules were established, and although Senator Nichol is the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and being privy to all of these activities may have this information, I am certain that the other members of the Legislature do not have that information, do not thoroughly understand the factors involved, and one day will get an opportunity to present this material and we can at least make an informed decision. Naturally, I am opposed to the bill, and I have reason to believe that it might die today even. But I think people should know what it is that we are dealing with and why I am asking for the vote that I am asking, not just that I think it is bad to index these salaries to that of the Supreme Court judges, but rather to show also that one category of judges was handled entirely differently than the rest of them. So if that were an injustice and it would be a decision you would have to make, we are trying to solidify that injustice in law so it can never be corrected