

Judges today carry an awesome responsibility to our society. Judging by some of the things that happen in the way of crime law suits, this that and the other thing and they need to be adequately compensated for their expertise in this area. But more and more we have gotten away from the tried and true concept that here is a position, if you qualify you deserve a salary in this area. If you do not, you do not. We are far away from the old merit system where we have created a lot of slots in a lot of areas and if you fit in this slot you get paid so much. If you fit in this slot you get paid so much and on down the line. I think that we have gone too far in the wrong direction. I think that we ought to support Senator Chambers to indefinitely postpone LB 111. Have a look at the system and how it is working and who is involved and year by year if necessary make the proper adjustments. I think the point is well made that we argue about this every time we are in session. Perhaps there is some merit in setting a certain guideline and then we don't have to go through this every year. But I think the other issue far outweighs the merit of LB 111. Lets have a look at the performance and I know that they are in there for life but on the other hand we do have some jurisdiction as to what they are paid and I think that it is fitting and proper. I do strongly support Senator Chambers in his efforts to indefinitely postpone LB 111. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there are a couple of points that I want to touch on very briefly because I will have the opportunity to close. Senator Chronister stated that this bill gives a rational and dignified method of setting salaries. We are not talking about a rational dignified method. We are talking about a system that will excuse these judges from being accountable for what they do. They are trying to disguise what they are doing under the terms rational and dignified like sometimes you can disguise a scoundrel under a robe. We want to do away with appearances this morning if we can and get to the reality. Now, I had mentioned the redistricting situation and if you have followed it, you will know that there are certain judges who have very light case loads but they do get all of the standard salary increases and they don't want redistricting. They don't want to redistrict because they would be required to do more work. There is no correlation whatsoever now between the salary received and the work done. So, if we can require the judges to justify salary increases at their particular level of operation, we have a basis for making them willing to look at the issue of redistricting. Why should I have a thousand cases, Senator Rumery has 500 and he gets the same amount that I get and my case load continues to grow, his diminishes but everytime a raise comes