

to what it is costing me now and I am absolutely certain all of you review your expenses as well and right now I can just virtually use my three hundred and some odd dollars a month just buying gas for the car for the purpose of carrying on the business of the state. Senator Wagner and I were just visiting about this, that it is terrible when this body subsidizes the state and provides a service, good, bad or indifferent but I was impressed by the World Herald's poll that the Governor has 60% popularity and we have 55% popularity. That is not bad because there is only one Governor and there are forty-nine of us so I think we are holding up pretty well. But what bothers me oftentimes when this body is putting to the people an opportunity to increase the salary, the lack of the voice that is needed from the executive branch to help that to happen and I am getting very concerned. I will support LB 488 but with considerable reluctance because I think it is time that the executive and other chief state officers say to the people if they are influential. You take the Attorney General, wins that position very easily. The former state treasurer always won that position very easily. Every time they have a platform I think they have the responsibility to say, listen, we know that our salary is not as great as it could be when you look at other states but if you want to see someone that is getting whipped, take a look at your state Legislature in terms of their salaries and our expenses and only those of us who can afford it and take it out of our own personal means can afford to be here and serve diligently and I don't know how some people can afford to be here because it is almost impossible, even though you may have other income to support your endeavor or your obituary column some day when it looks good, they are going to see "Senator". So I will support the bill with reluctance and hope that some of those people sometime would live in our shoes and say possibly we need an increase because the cost of living affects us just like it does anyone else. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if I recall we had some of these same people stand up on this floor and say we need higher salaries for the judges. How can we attract good men to be judges if we do not pay them, or women, a good salary? Now I believe, I don't know for sure, but three or four of these people are attorneys and if they go out into the private sector they could make more money. This is the same argument that was used for judges. They do not have to be a judge. These people do not have to run for public office but if we wish to attract good people for a public office, he or she, Democrat or Republican, then we