

May 26, 1981

LB 488

the Governor's salary to \$65,000 per year, all constitutional officers to receive 95% of the Governor's salary.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, apparently the raise that I offered in the other bill was not considered adequate. Senator Cullan has made an appeal for not cutting the Governor's salary which, in effect, would have happened if you had not given him an increase because everybody else would have gotten one. He made his appeal based on what executives in other lines of work may receive and he is quite correct. They receive quite a bit more than the Governor of the State of Nebraska. One of them who is now head of Chrysler put Ford in a lot of trouble and now he is doing the same thing for Chrysler and he is making close to a million dollars in cash and a lot of other fringe benefits and with all due respect to all the people who have stumbled and blundered and fumbled their way through the governorship of Nebraska, the state still, despite all of that problem is not in as bad a shape as Chrysler. So, if those people are entitled to these huge amounts of money then you might be willing to give the Governor a substantial increase. \$10,000 is not really an increase. If you are insistent on raising the salary and you are doing it for the office then raise it by a considerable enough amount. Then everybody else would not receive the 98% of that that I proposed when the raise was a lesser amount but only 95% and I think this will give everyone of those constitutional offices, not only a decent increase, but it will provide uniformity and I think that is to be desired. So, if you adopt my amendment you would take the Governor from \$40,000 to \$65,000 which is a mere \$25,000 increase and that is not unreasonable in these inflationary times because the dollar is not worth very much. Now whatever 95% of 65,000 is, that is what all these other fellows would receive. So instead of getting a \$10,000 increase the Governor would get \$25,000. Each one of these other people would get 95% of the \$65,000 total salary that the Governor would have. If you were upset with the \$42,000 amount, it is obvious that that was too small. We have not had a vote at this stage of consideration on the \$50,000 which is the consideration in the bill as it stands now. So maybe you feel that \$50,000 is about right and you might feel that \$40,000 for the Lieutenant Governor who is just a whisper away from the governorship or a heartbeat is what they say, depending upon what you whisper, it could just be a whisper, he is up to only \$40,000.

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