

to have a 2½% increase for the Judiciary in the next fiscal year. The fiscal impact then of the amendment is \$115,749. The bill as proposed had a fiscal impact for the coming fiscal year of \$690,140. So you can see the amendment I proposed significantly reduces the fiscal impact of the bill which I originally introduced. The bill proposed a salary for the Supreme Court for the coming fiscal year of \$60,500. As amended the salary for the Supreme Court for that period of time will be \$50,731 or approximately \$12,000 less than I had originally requested from the Legislature. I would ask you to adopt this committee amendment to the amendment to the committee amendment, and I would ask you to advance the bill. Over the last six year's the District Judges in the State of Nebraska have had salary increases averaging to approximately 4% per year. I don't think that is a way to encourage or retain employees or qualified and competent people in the State of Nebraska and I think the net effect of our salary policy, not only for judges but for other public employees, has been to retain people who we would perhaps not want to retain and many talented people are not being encouraged to stay when their level of compensation and their annual increases in salary are so low. So, I think that we should take a step right now, it is a very modest step, 5% a year for the judiciary. The second thing that the amendment does is strike the portion of the committee amendments that would have lowered the percentage that District Judges and County Judges and other Judges receive of the Supreme Courts salary. It leaves it as the Legislature determined it should be in the last session of the Legislature in LB 111. So we strike that portion of the committee amendment. Now I think is the time for us to increase judicial salaries, even in this very, very moderate and modest amount which I personally think is much, much too small an increase in the salary of the judiciary. But, I guess something is better than nothing and I suppose in light of what we are doing to state employees this modest increase is appropriate. I distributed to you also earlier this morning a sheet that compares the salaries paid to lawyers in public office and other persons in Nebraska government. I think when you look at these salaries you will see what other attorneys paid for by public dollars are receiving in the State of Nebraska. The City of Omaha's attorney receives \$60,537 which is substantially more than our own Supreme Court, \$9,000 more than our own Supreme Court under my amendment. The County. . .the City of Omaha's Deputy County Attorney would receive more than the state Supreme Court currently receives today. The City Prosecutor who appears in Municipal Court receives substantially more than Municipal Court Judges