

would receive. The County Attorney in Omaha with the 5% incremental increase that he is going to be receiving will soon be receiving \$70,000 a year. Those are local governments. How about the State of Nebraska itself? The Department of Public Institutions pays its director who is an attorney \$71,292. Twice as much as we pay our own Attorney General who is an elected official and substantially more than we pay any member of the bench in the State of Nebraska. Look at those specifics and look at those salary figures and you can see how little we pay our judiciary with compared to other attorneys who also work for the people. We are not comparing them to people in private practice who would make many, many times more than our judges. I don't think our judges should make as much as some of the people in private practice do, but they ought not to make so small salaries that we will be losing quality judges. The last point that I would make is about the level of, just a point about the current level of compensation for the judiciary. I am a senior, as many of you know, at Creighton Law School. Right now many of my classmates are looking for jobs or have in fact obtained employment. The county judge in the State of Nebraska makes \$35,955 a year. I have a classmate, who I know very well, who ranks in about the middle of the class, who is going to work for a law firm in Denver, Colorado for \$32,000. He hasn't even passed the bar exam yet. He is making, he will be making in Denver, well about \$4,000 less than a county judge who hopefully is a qualified competent individual who has served and practiced for many years. So I think when you look at what attorneys are making I think it is terrible that we are in the state that we are in. We are not asking for substantial increases in salaries at this point in time, just the small 2½...effective 2½% increase in this coming fiscal year and then a 5% increase after that. I would urge you to adopt the amendment. I wish we could obtain a more realistic salary level but at this point in time given the budget constraints I guess we will ask for the 5% salary increases that I have addressed. I now move for the adoption of my amendment to the committee amendment and then I would hope that we could advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Von Minden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, a question of Senator Cullan please.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Senator Cullan, our Attorney General who