

increase over the next two years, or for the constitutional officers, it would be for at least four years or really be five years from last January so I guess I oppose this amendment for that reason. I know that those people need some increase in salary because they have not gotten a raise in the last several years. Well, I don't know the judges so much, I think we did give them a raise not too long ago, but I am just not in favor of putting an escalation in a salary. With our economy the way it is, I think we are going to go the other way, and if I understand it right, and I might ask this of Senator Cullan, once this is set by this body this year, there can be no change for, what, two more years in the case of the judges? He is nodding that that is correct so, therefore, I object to having a 5% increase in and I would rather put a fair salary on today and leave it at that rather than put the escalation in it. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Von Minden. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I would ask for a point of clarification. I don't want to speak to the bill or the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Do you want a question of Senator Cullan?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, please.

SENATOR CLARK: All right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Cullan, providing this bill is adopted, as I understand it the state employees, the Appropriations Committee said give them a raise October 1st, the Governor said give it to them January 1st, when would the judges get their raise if this bill passes?

SENATOR CULLAN: If this bill passes, the raise would occur on January 1st because constitutionally we cannot give the judiciary or any constitutional officer the increase or decrease, for that matter, in their salary during the term of their office. So January 1st would be the effective date of any increase in salary.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I recognize the problem which we face with the Supreme Court judges. I have never before opposed a raise for the Supreme Court judges nor do I think for any other member of the judiciary. I believe very strongly in paying them a satisfactory