

year I had an offer from a corporation to serve as its general counsel at a salary substantially in excess of the \$41,000 a year I presently earn. I turned it down. But this year if the offer were to come through....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...and given the fact that the Legislature has not done right by the judiciary, I am prepared and I will take the step. I said, Judge, can I tell that story on the floor and he said, yes, I can tell that story on the floor. And he said, you know, Vard, the way I feel is the way many of my counterparts feel that we truly are being asked to pay too great a price to dispense and to deliver the system of justice that we in society want. And I say to you, colleagues, we would be pennywise and pound foolish if we didn't provide our judiciary a modest increase even in these difficult times to continue to assure to our citizens a solid bench and a good system of justice.

SENATOR CLARK: I would like to announce that in the north balcony Linda Zahl, American Government teacher from Stratton, has also two school board members, Richard Stahly, Stratton Public School Board, Loren Egle, Stratton Public School Board, he is from Palisade, and 14 students. Would you stand and be recognized, please. They are in Senator Haberman's District. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Burrows is next. He is not there. Senator VonMinden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it is extremely hard to stand here and oppose the most powerful people in the State of Nebraska, the judges and the lawyers. Let me say to you, I think you ought to hear the other side of the story. Everyone should take a look at the benefits a lawyer receives when he accepts a judicial position, number one, job security. How many judges lose their jobs unless they really foul up? They have job security until they are 72 years old. How many people in Nebraska have that right now? They are wondering whether they are going to keep their jobs at all. Number two, they receive the medical coverage that everyone else in Nebraska receives. And also how about the retirement system? It is a generous retirement fund that most of us don't even know about that perhaps some of us would work for just the retirement. I also want to say to you about the prestige and the power the judge has. In fact, a good friend of mine is a district judge in South Sioux City, Nebraska, went to high school with him. He said to me, Senator VonMinden, are you proud to be a Senator? I said,