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if our economic problems continue at this rate. Even if they don't continue at this rate, it seems to me that we are looking at an inflation rate of at least 10 percent a year for the next two...two and a half years which would be a 25 percent erosion in the salary level that the judges are currently making, currently earning, if we do nothing today. Now, secondly, consider if you will the amount of the increase that the Cullan amendment proposes. For the first fiscal year that this will go into effect it is only a 2½ percent increase, that is for the fiscal year of the appropriations bills we are currently considering it is only a 2½ percent increase which is less than what we are proposing to give state employees. For the next fiscal year after this current fiscal year it will be a 5 percent increase which is probably also going to be significantly less than state employees are going to receive and then it will be 2½ percent again for the last half of the last....the first half of the last fiscal year that this bill will affect. So I think that before you decide not to support the Cullan amendment you have got to understand the ramifications of this and that is that because of the way our Constitution is framed, this is the last opportunity we have for two years to give the judiciary a salary increase. Now, Senator Schmit indicates that he has had a lot of experience in the courts of this state and I know a lot of others of the members of this body have and I think that anyone like Senator Schmit or anyone else who has had experience with the law can tell you that no law suit and no lawyer is better than the judge for whom the case is tried. And the best of the lawyers must be those who are willing to come onto the bench because if we cannot convince the best lawyers in this state to accept employment as judges, well then our system is going to suffer. As Nebraskans we deserve the best, we deserve the ability to attract the best people to the bench and not just what can be obtained. We can always obtain lawyers who are willing to serve as judges at these salary rates, but the question is, can we get the best people available? And you know that the best lawyers in this state are making substantially more than judges currently make. If we decide to give the judges no increase until January 1st of 1985, what kind of luck are we going to have in attracting the best lawyers to apply for judicial positions around the state? I think we are going to have even more problems than we have had to date and we have had severe problems today in many outlying communities in convincing good lawyers to apply for vacancies at the county court and the district court level. So please remember when you vote on this matter this is the last chance we have for two and a half years to give our