

It is a job that demands good judgment day in and day out and like our job it involves being knowledgeable with or becoming knowledgeable in a very short period of time hundreds and hundreds of different areas. A judge has to pick up a case having to do with electric rates one day and be able to understand rate structures. I think all of you can appreciate from our prior debates in this Legislature the kind of background work you have to do, the kind of intelligence you have to have to comprehend and understand and make judgments on rate cases, on electric rate cases. Then the next day he is doing a products liability case and that calls for a knowledge not only of the law but the specifics of the particular product that is being decided. You have to know about automobiles in one case. You have to know about complicated Westinghouse nuclear power equipment in the next case and justice requires a good judgment being made in each case.

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The good judgment being made depends on the judge's facility, on his ability to understand and on his experience. Those are just two examples. There are hundreds and hundreds of different kinds of cases and we need good people in that position. So the least you could do is to give those people holding key positions as much of a salary increase as you give to those who are not holding key positions and who can be easily replaced. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler said this didn't solve anything, but it does solve one thing, even though the increase is very minimal it does solve the problem of having some of the judges take a decrease in salary if we stick to the formula of 111 that we adopted a year ago. So with that, Senator Beutler, even though the increase is small it does solve that problem which may not mean anything to some of you but it certainly would be a problem to some of the judges and in a way intimidating to them perhaps. But Senator Hoagland is suggesting a 3.75 raise plus a 3.75 raise which you should keep in mind when you are voting on this resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell. Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Von Minden, would you yield to a question, please?