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LB 603

understand the predicaments serving as Senators who only receive in compensation only \$4800 a year. We understand full well that when it comes to serving in this body the implied credential is to be independently wealthy and if not that at least retired. I assure you, colleagues, that when it comes to the judicial branch in Nebraska that we don't want candidates purely who are independently wealthy and on the verge of retirement serving in that branch, that we want the most competent individuals possible irrespective of age and financial background. Thank you, colleagues.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as nearly as I can tell we do not need to pass LB 603 to keep anyone from taking a salary decrease. That is not true as I understand it. Number two, if you can tell within seven hundred bucks what a Supreme Court judge is worth, then you vote for this amendment instead of for the 5 percent amendment. I don't think you can. Number three, if you are trying to pay them what they are worth, this body is never going to appropriate that kind of money. You can always find attorneys and I know many of them who make three, four or five times what a Supreme Court judge is making and certainly I would not want to see them on the bench. That is not the point. The point is we have good members in the judiciary because they are interested in the job and they are doing a good job and they are going to keep on doing a good job. The issue here before us today is one which is a simple matter of economics. Now I wish that I wish that I were as confident as Senator Hoagland and some of the others are that the other state employees are going to get a 3.75 raise. I am not so sure that is going to happen. I can assure you that if the economy does not turn around and we have all seen it happen, there may well be a recall to this Chamber and a reassessment of the situation and the state employees and some very low paid, the vast majority of them are extremely loyal and competent, are going to perhaps take nothing or maybe even less. We have no way to guarantee a 3.75 raise for anyone. Senator Hoagland refers to the 13 percent inflation. If I read the Reagan reports correctly, that rate of inflation is far below that, far, far below that. For all we know the rate of inflation has been brought to a stop and maybe even turned around. If you talk to those 350 people at Sperry-New Holland, Senator Howard Peterson, that were laid off of work, their rate of inflation is way below that. Same way with the five hundred and some people laid off at Iowa Beef. It is a very