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LB 603

low rate. I wish that I could say that we have a 15 percent or 13 or 12 percent rate and we are going to sustain that rate with the wage increases we are offering. We do not have it. We are not assured we are going to have it. There is no way we can count upon it, and to attempt to crowbar these raises into position with this kind of an amendment is not being exactly honest. Now someone says, why is there such a disparity? Well, ladies and gentlemen, as I recall the reason LB 111 passed last year was because there were a number of people who thought it was a fair bill and that the difference between the salaries were proper. If all we did last time was to pass that bill and then provide the mechanism whereby this time we come in here and unhook that relationship so that we can this year raise the Supreme Court judges and next year be back here on the auctioning block and raise the district court judges, one at a time, it is a little tougher. The reason I supported 111 is that I think it is tougher to raise them all at once than it is 7 one time, 37 another time, 43 another time, etcetera, etcetera. I think that they are all tied together, they ought to stay that way. If you raise one group, you ought to raise them all. If you don't raise them all, I believe we stick with the price and the level that we established a year ago. I want to just reemphasize once again, not a single member of this body can guarantee to any state employee a 3.75 raise because if we run out of bucks, ladies and gentlemen, there is either going to be.....

SENATOR CLARK: You have 45 seconds.

SENATOR SCHMIT:no raise or no job. In regard to the list that was handed out here, I think that Senator Haberman made an excellent point and I think when you start talking about where to save money we might take a look at some of these things. It is kind of interesting to me that we have some jobs here in the upper five figure range which perhaps might be overpaid, under this kind of an economy. So I would ask you, as Senator Kahle said one time, you can't move the brooderhouse full of chickens. He tried that and that is exactly what you are going to do if you keep trying to follow this procedure. So I would hope you would not adopt the Hoagland amendment and I would hope you would not advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I think we finally reached an agreement on this now, a compromise between the two opposing factions. I think it is going to