

April 16, 1982

LB 488

\$30,000. He would have to have a room, a law office. He would have to have attorney dues. He would have to have a law library. So I say to you the salary is not that bad. Some other things I would like to say to you, job security. Since when does a judge ever beat the.... come home with a pink slip and say to his wife, well, I don't think we can make the house payments, I have been relieved of my job. They have a job until they are 72 years old except if they foul up somewhere along the line, and you know that is not about to happen. Health insurance. Once a lawyer becomes a judge he becomes a state employee with all the benefits that other state employees have. Generous retirement funds. It would boggle your mind the retirement these judges have after they are in there a few years. Prestige. It's something like the state senators. How many of you state senators are going to give up your job because you don't make any money? One state senator has already spent \$10,000. He has taken in \$14,000 for a \$4800 a year job. I say these judges are not going to quit. The prestige of a judge, once he is a judge he is always referred to as a judge, the same as a state senator. One other thing I would like to say to you. If we cannot afford a 3.75 raise for the workers in the State of Nebraska who are perhaps making 10, 12, 14 thousand dollars, how in the world can we afford a raise of 5 percent for judges who are making 40 and 50 thousand dollars? I want it perfectly clear here though I am not objecting to one part of the bill. I am not objecting to the constitutional raises of those different officers. I am objecting to the way of putting one major bill onto another major bill without going through the legal process. With that I will close. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, I would rise to support Senator VonMinden's motion. I recognize the deep concern that we have for adequate salaries for constitutional officers and judges. I want to point out to you that I believe the Governor could veto a portion of the bill and allow a portion of it to stand, for example, the judiciary if he felt needed those raises, he could sustain that part of the bill and at the same time veto the raises for the constitutional officers. I think it is absolutely inconsistent at a time when the low paid state employees are not going to receive this kind of a raise that we attempt to give one in a greater amount to the higher paid employees. I think the basic costs of living are well covered under the present salaries. At this time

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