

they are at the same level.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, so they can't increase it without this particular amendment, they can't.

SENATOR HALL: They cannot, that's correct, they cannot.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall, yours is the next light. Would you prefer to wait and close? Thank you. Senator Labeledz, on the motion to suspend.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of Senator Hall's motion to suspend the rules. The Metro Area Transit not only meets once a month, but they do have emergency meetings, as Senator Hall mentioned, they are also in charge of the employees and the negotiations with the unions, and in the past few years they've had several problems. They also take complaints. I know I've had to call the directors when we need shelters for the elderly in front of the senior citizen centers or in the shopping centers in south Omaha. So, I strongly agree that their salary should be increased. I can recall years and years ago when the Legislature was only paid \$200 a month, and that was a total disgrace, and then we went to 400 for several years, and now we're at 1,000. I know that we meet and we have a lot of work to do, and we spend a lot of time, in the summertime, with committee hearings and work probably a lot longer than the Metro Area Transit directors. But they do meet in between that monthly meeting, sometimes once a week, and then when they do get an emergency, they go for two or three days. So it's not just once a month that they are meeting, they do have emergency meetings and they do go to the office quite a bit during the month, besides the monthly meeting. I know a couple of them personally and they do spend a lot of time away from their jobs, and their own expense, travel back and forth to the meetings. So I strongly believe that they should be increased and that is not asking too much. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. Senator Hall, would you care to close. Excuse me, here is Senator Schmit, on the motion to return.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I just want to say that I was approached by several individuals relative to