

midrange, and in some cases, they were decreased; in some cases, they were increased depending upon what the committee felt the work load of the office was. And I know all the constitutional offices work very hard, and I know we need to make the salaries commensurate, particularly when we get into Attorney Generals or State Auditors or the State Treasurer, and so on. That is the nature of the committee amendments. The committee amendments would, in essence, become the majority of the bill starting with the Governor's 65,000. And with that, that concludes my remarks on the committee amendments and I urge their passage, if there be no further discussion at this point.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion purposes on the committee amendments, Senators Chambers, Wesely, Goodrich, and Schimek. Senator Chambers:

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, I will go ahead and make my comments now since the committee amendments are likely to be adopted and will become the bill. I think that whenever there is a bill before us to raise the salaries of various state officers, we should support those efforts. Never have we been extravagant in the amount of money that we would accord these various positions, and I hope that today, as I have indicated in the past when we were on these bills, we will not consider the personality or the politics of whoever happens to be sitting in the office. This salary increase may or may not redound to the benefit of whoever is in office now. It will not take effect until four years from now, whatever that date is. So the person currently in office should not be a basis for us voting against these increases. If that is the reason for voting for the increases, I have no problem since I am in favor of the increases regardless of the motive. If I, personally, were the one to establish salaries that I felt were appropriate for these various offices, I would probably raise the amounts for at least some of them. I would certainly raise the salary of the Governor. I just have a feeling that the highest elected official in the state should probably have the highest salary, even when it comes to those individuals who are appointed. Now I would never say that the Governor's salary should be equal to that of the football coach because we all know nobody would pay anything to see the... pay anything to see the Governor do anything except maybe be burned at the stake whereas many people pay large amounts regularly each weekend during the season just to see the team that the football coach coaches. So with the exception of people associated with the