

Athletic Department, some people in the university system who are not elected persons, I think the Governor's salary should have...there should be a gap between the salary paid the Governor and the next highest. Right now there is one, but I think that the salary should be higher than the \$65,000. However, something is better than nothing, and for now, I will vote to accept the committee amendments because that might be the only way we will have a bill before us.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I would echo Senator Chambers remarks. I think for whatever we may feel about certain officeholders, the office itself is what we are talking about here. And I do recall one of the reasons, for instance, the State Treasurer and State Auditor salaries are so low at 35,000 is some disenchantment with some of the performances in those offices held those salaries so low and that will raise them to forty-nine, five, I think is appropriate, despite my personal view, the State Auditor should be under the Legislature and not an independently elected office. I did talk to Senator Bernard-Stevens about this and I think it is probably correct that even with the raise in the salary for the Governor to 65,000, I think we would still be on the low end nationally. I remember a survey done of governors salaries and at 58,000 our Governor was one of the lower four or five in the whole country. I am sure going to 65 would still be low. That is a lot of money. Most Nebraskans, 99 percent of us probably would be happy to have that kind of salary, but on a comparative basis, it isn't out of range. So I, too, would rise in support of the committee amendments and to the bill and encourage consideration, perhaps, to even further amendment to the bill later on to make sure we are, in fact, adequately compensating people for these important positions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, please.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Just a short word that as introducer of the bill I do concur with the committee amendments and would, wholeheartedly, suggest we adopt those. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, and members of the body, I would just like to say if the voters had been a little smarter