

in 1986, I wouldn't be standing here today asking for you to support this measure. I would be one of the happy recipients of this measure, but the public has spoken and I would like to speak and say that I don't think these are out of line at all. I would just...in fact, I would echo what both Senators Wesely and Chambers said that, perhaps, the Governor's salary does need to be adjusted somewhat upward. But I would like to ask Senator, what is your name, Bernard-Stevens, Pete, could you tell me in other states, do they have these same kind of disparities in salaries or was there some subjective judgment used here in allocating those kinds of figures for the different offices?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is a good question, Senator Schimek. In fact, there was a wide range of differences at times. What the committee wanted to try to do is to not necessarily go into an order of rank and say we are going to start at a ceiling and then, by rank, go down and each one be lower because the committee realized that though the Secretary of State may, in fact, be higher on the list than State Auditor, vice versa, we tried to not only look at the various states average salaries but also we tried to look at Nebraska as to what we felt was an area that had more of a work load. Now understand I said not more of an importance, necessarily, but more of a work load and more responsibility to do more things. And we tried to take that into consideration when we began looking at how we were going to apply salaries below the ceiling of 65.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I guess I have to echo what the other senators have said and particularly as you can obviously see our Governor's salary and so on, but just a couple of years ago in the Legislature, I remember Senator Remmers and I and I am not quite sure who else, I think Senator Landis, we did extensive work on these constitutional officers' salaries and I will tell you it was not necessarily too easy to get the raise that we affected at that time. And I think the Public Service Commission Officers entered into the picture, and so on, so I somewhat sense I think the salaries were only raised a couple of years ago. I don't know whether we are treading on the right ground or not, but with that, I will