

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, what kind of bothers me is that we are going to raise the constitutional officers' salaries more of a percentage than what we are raising the state employees. If we have raised the state employees, say, 6 percent a year for the last four years, that would be 24 percent. Now why would we want to raise the constitutional officers' salaries more than that? So I am going to urge you to defeat the Chambers amendment because I think we are going a little bit too far here. I realize that we need to set these salaries four years in advance, but even at that, I think we should stay pretty close to what we are paying the other people, or what percentage increase we are using. So I would just like to have your consideration on that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: The point I was going to make is what I just pointed out to Senator Chambers so he could make it in response to Senator Hefner's question relative to what we should be paying the Governor. The average, as I said, is 77,200 right now. That is the average of all of the states added together and averaged out, the average Governor's salary is 77,000 right now. Senator Chamber's proposal would be 2,000 even below that. However, the other thing is that if you take, for example, the Governor's salary, the amount of increase, for example, is \$17,000, including the committee amendment and the Chambers amendment would be \$17,000 which is, in essence, about 28 percent. Dividing that by the four years, you get about 6, no, 7 percent average increase. So it isn't too far from what we are doing for the rest of the state employees. It is just that we don't do this for the constitutional officers and we can't do it except every four years or longer.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: The comments I was going to make have, in essence, been said but I would like at least to clarify for the body that it really...the committee is not and certainly I am not going to sit here and say whether this should be that amount or this particular constitutional officer should have another. That is simply for the floor to decide. However, I would point out that Senator Chambers' amendment, at least for the Legislature's information, putting it up to \$75,000, the average for the United States or in this particular area, at least, is 77,000. So it would not put us in the upper end. It