

would simply put us a tad bit below the average, and as I have been trying to figure in my head and on paper, what the \$5,000 would do to the other constitutional officers, we have, in essence, the same effect. So what I said before still holds true. The committee amendments that were agreed upon, and now the bill that we have it, with the ceiling at 65,000, the numbers that we have within the proposal now are on the low side of average. Senator Chambers' amendment would simply put us to the average. Now all of us have always difficult times when we talk about salary increases. Certainly, we always get a little nervous when we were talking about our own salary increases a year or so ago, and we are getting nervous about this one, too, particularly when we have issues out there such as lids, and control spending, and property taxes unfairness, and all of a sudden now we come out with a pay increase, and I think the body as best as possible needs to try to separate themselves from those issues, and as we can, every four years simply say what do we need to do to attract the best type of person, what can we do that would pay the constitutional officers an adequate salary that would be commensurate with other people? And I think as we get to state employees, we will be making that decision based on the information at that time, Senator Hefner. And I agree with Senator Chambers that we can give state employees every year a change, if we want, and what I think would be good to do, Senator Hefner, and others, and I, too, am concerned about comparisons to other people, like State Patrol and other areas, that we are doing, but I think what we need to do is say if we gave a 4 percent this year, a 3 percent next year, a 4 percent or maybe go back four years, and add up the total percentages that we have given in four years, how would that, then, compare to the one percentage increase we are giving for a four-year period. And I think that would probably be a fair computation and comparison. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Chambers, the Chair is pleased to note another very, very happy occasion. Would the Legislature please recognize the birthday of the housemother of our Pages, Kitty Kearns. Kitty, would you stand up and take a bow. Happy Birthday, Kitty. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I am going to ask for a division of the question, and I would divide it in the following manner. The Governor, and then the rest of the offices taken as a group, and I was recognized just