

Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, my amendment strikes the 20 percent increase that the bill has in it for January, 1991, and it changes it to 7 percent, July 1, 1990; 7 percent, 1991; and 7 percent, 1992. Now some of the reasons that I am doing this is for the information of the body. The judges' salaries in the past eight years have increased 38 percent, 30 percent...38 percent increase in eight years. So if we say, okay, we're going to give them 20 percent, January 1, 1991, that would be a 58 percent increase in nine years and I think this is a little heavy. I think it's a little heavy. I am not denying them an increase. I am not doing that. I'm saying we're going to spread the increase out over three years and, really, instead of getting 20 percent, they're going to get 21 percent over the three years. Now we also have a problem coming up. As you all know, when a new judge is appointed, the salaries automatically increase. There will be two new judges appointed sometime in May. So if this bill passes in its present form or any form, the minute those judges are appointed the increase in salary is going to go up. I would also like to call to the attention of the body that if this bill passes, there will be an increase of about \$470,000 per year for retirement benefits and it's going to reach the point in a year or two where the state is going to have to start contributing to the retirement of the judges. So I would like to ask you to support my amendment. It does not take the raise away. It says no 20 percent in 1991 but gives them a 7 percent for '90, '91 and '92. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Now we're speaking about the Haberman amendment. Senator Lindsay, did you wish to speak on it? Okay. Senator Hefner, on the Haberman amendment. Senator Chizek, on the...no. Senator Chambers, on the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, and on every other opportunity that I am presented will I speak on whatever is before the body and against this bill and against the concept of it and against the notion that these judges, because of their conduct, merit this increase. It would be better for Senator Kristensen to say that you just want to give them an increase so they're making as much as other judges rather than talk about the quality of the judicial.