

Haberman amendment, all we're going to be doing is maintaining and guaranteeing for the next four years that our judges are going to remain down in the bottom end of the pay scale nationally. And we can't continue to do that and expect in the future we're going to draw quality individuals to the judiciary. For the judges right now that are in, for most of them that are on the...at the end of their scale, there is going to be a lot of those judges who may retire in the next four years who won't get the benefit of the salary increase. What we're really doing is talking and addressing the judges in the future, the judges that are going to get appointed and serve in the upcoming years to make sure that we get the good quality people that we need. And, obviously, we could cut their salary, sure, and then we'll be back in here complaining more and more about, well, doggone those judges that didn't make a ruling. It's a sound policy and I also would oppose the Haberman amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, that distinguished person entitled to so much respect that Senator Lindsay was referring to was myself. Being as modest and humble as I am, I hate to acknowledge it but I must in order to respond to his comment. I did quote Armand Hammer in saying that if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys. But I was talking about constitutional officers' salaries which come nowhere near approaching what we're giving to these judges, nowhere near approaching what we're being asked to give to these judges. Nobody even thought for a second of suggesting a 20 percent increase at one fell swoop then automatic raises down through the years. That has never been proposed for the constitutional officers and they had never been given a substantial enough raise to bring them into a reasonable relationship with the salary received by others. And they are accountable, they're subject to election. They can be thrown out of office. Many judges ought to be thrown out of office and with all of these lawyers falling down, genuflecting before these people, somebody needs to bring some perspective. Based on the decisions that some of them give down, Senator Kristensen, not just the decision itself, but the arrogance, the rudeness, the insults some judges from the bench pay to people before them, that is contemptible conduct, it is unprofessional. It is inhumane, because if a person responded in the courtroom to the way he or she was being treated by one of these rude judges, the judge