

When you just take those comparisons into account, I think you have to say that this increase is not only fair, it is long overdue. If we enact the bill as it is, as Senator Schmit has brought it before the Judiciary Committee and as it was advanced out of the Judiciary Committee, we will, bringing our judges into some kind of fair relationship with attorneys in the public sector such as the Dean of the College of Law or the federal court judges or college professors, law professors and so on, if we enact the bill as it is we will be bringing them into a fair relationship with what many of the attorneys make in private practice. An excellent attorney in private practice or a very good attorney in private practice will easily make over \$100,000 a year. That's the plain, hard fact of the matter, and their services are worth that. The cases they handle are worth that. They are well worth the money that people pay them to handle some exorbitant and huge type of legal disputes. It seems to me if we have those type of lawyers being paid that amount, that we should have the judges who are presiding in these courts of law to be paid a comparable amount. What we really want to achieve is, I think, my goal is that we would get the better lawyers in the legal profession...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...to seriously consider a judgeship and not have to just disqualify themselves or discount even considering a judgeship because the pay is nowhere commensurate with what some of these excellent attorneys are making in private practice. And I've had some private attorneys who I know are making over 100,000 a year, some over \$200,000 a year, and some even more than that frankly, who have said, you know, I would be interested in being a judge, but there is no way that I would even consider it for the meager wages that are paid to them. I think we need to have qualified and competent and very distinguished people on the bench and I think the only way we're going to do it is by paying them an adequate salary. And you can take exceptions and you can try to dramatize and you can talk about your own case and you can try to ridicule and joke and laugh about it, but it is not a joking or laughing matter. It is a very serious matter. We need a good judiciary in our state and I think by passing the bill as it was advanced out of Judiciary we can come within the range of improving...

PRESIDENT: Time.