

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I've listened to the lawyers. I heard the lawyers, and I think they have indicated that if we offer an adequate salary then we might have a chance to get better judges. Senator Kristensen, may I ask you a question?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Sure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Has that been one of the arguments for a substantial increase that if you have a good salary you have a better chance of attracting qualified people?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: In the future, yes, that's true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Lindsay, may I ask you the same question, and what would your response to the question be?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator McFarland, is that your position also?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I think that we should increase it, I would even double it or triple it, I think that would be appropriate.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Mr. Clerk, would you read the amendment, please?

CLERK: Page 2, line 12, strike "twenty" and insert "fifty".

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, let us take these people at their word, and I'm going to vote this amendment that I'm offering and if this amendment is adopted I will support the bill all the way across the floor. It's one of those all or nothing propositions. If it is felt that what is considered a reasonable increase is too small to attract quality judges and the goal to be achieved in raising the salary is to attract quality judges, then the increase has to be substantial enough to accomplish that purpose. There are lawyers who would be making more than a judge would make if you tacked on 20 percent to what is being made by the Chief Justice. And, remember, the salary that I'm adding the increase to would be