

all of our money up front, I could probably support that. One of my concerns about the various amendments that we have got here before us are that we get into sort of an auction. At least Senator Chambers started high enough that we can make some kind of sense out of it. I guess my concern is that we talk a lot on this floor about not being able to have any influence over who gets appointed judge, and we don't have any control over them, and we don't approve of their performance. Well, I wish that I had a chance to have something to say about the various professors at the University of Nebraska. I wish I had a chance to say something about the various other individuals who head the various agencies, some of whom I think do an excellent, some of which I am less than enthusiastic about. I don't know exactly what percentage of salary increase we have given the professors at the university the last four years, but someone tells me that when you compound it, it is about 50 percent. I do not know what percentage we have given the state employees, but I believe it was a rather generous improvement, and the Legislature has nothing to do with that. One of the problems with this body is that we always pick on those who are visible and who are attackable, I guess, if there is such a word. In other words, we can all fight the judges, and so we take them on. I think that Senator Chambers has a reasonable amendment. I am sure it is not going to get much support but it is a reasonable amendment, and I wouldn't mind putting it up there and then taking a look at what did happen. I have been reading some of the comments in the paper, some of the remarks, went through the transcript, I have listened to some of the debate on the floor when I was not on the floor, and I have reread some of the letters I received from people who say, well, there are ten persons who would take every vacancy. And I just have to wonder a little bit what would happen if those ten persons, one of them were appointed at some time, and the person who wrote me the letter found themselves depending upon that individual for a proper judicial decision. We spend hundreds of millions of dollars on this floor every year and, at some point in time, most of those bills are going to call for a judicial decision. It would be very, very unfortunate if that individual who happened to make a decision on a bill did not have the background, the experience, the temperament to make a proper decision. I apologize to Senator Chambers because I am not speaking directly to his amendment. I am just speaking to the entire concept of...concept of judges pay raises. Let me tell you, if you are looking to be popular anywhere in Nebraska, you wouldn't introduce a bill to raise judges' pay. There are