

is true that I did say that it should be doubled or tripled. I said it facetiously and I trust everyone else took it in that manner. I was not serious about it. The 20 percent is a figure that was arrived at to try to bring the judicial salaries in Nebraska back into the middle range of rank in comparison to other states. There was testimony day before yesterday about us at one time ranking 24th in the nation, right about at the middle, as far as what we paid our district court judges. The 20 percent increase would bring us into that middle range again. I think that is the purpose of the bill. I think that is particularly fair and I think it is appropriate and shouldn't be amended, or it should be enacted in that form. I think it is important that we have good judges on the bench. I think if we are going to, in the future, have good candidates continue to apply, that we need to bring that salary into that range. I would like to say a couple of things. Usually in my comments on bills, I try to and I think almost always do, I don't recall exceptions, I try to speak to the issue at hand and not get involved in making comments about other senators or other people. I suppose it is natural if one has been angered, to strike back in anger; if one has been laughed at, to try to make fun of someone else; if one has been humiliated, to try and humiliate someone else; if one has been demeaned, to try to demean someone else, that is a natural human tendency. That is something that I used to do when I was brought up. If someone pushed me, I pushed back, usually twice as hard. If someone said something, I said something back. If someone challenged me, I accepted the challenge. That was part of my makeup, that is the way that I grew up, that is the way I acted for a considerable amount of time. I am sorry to say it's sometimes the way I act even now on occasion. It is not something, though, that has ever achieved very much. Somebody said if you believe in the biblical statement about an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth, if everybody practiced that, we would all go around sightless and toothless. You never achieve something in that manner. So my tact in this legislative body, if there has been criticism leveled, it has either been at the specific proposal itself or at a group, such as a committee, such as an office, such as the Legislature, as a whole. If we resort to try to mock or demean or criticize or anger or make fun of or ridicule, that does not accomplish anything and I think it demeans the person who does try to resort to those tactics. Those tactics are never productive, and those tactics only, to my way of thinking, embarrass the senator, whoever he or she may be, who resorts to them. They don't achieve anything. They