

in the last three or four years than have the judicial salaries, and the professors at the university almost without exception are not limited to their university income. They have the opportunity, in fact, they have many excellent opportunities to add to their income, and I am not opposed to that. I am not opposed to paying the university good salaries, but I would suggest that when you look at the equity between judicial salaries and the salaries at the university, you will find that the judicial system is in a very poor second place. Another thing that is of concern to me is that the judicial system not only has to be above reproach, it has to... anyone who participates as a judge has to avoid, as they say, even the appearance of impropriety, and that means that most of them have lived rather circumspect lives. If they don't, they don't remain as judges. I had better be careful here, as I look at the lady judge who retires doesn't lead a circumspect life, I don't mean that, but the point is that they just don't have the opportunity to bring in additional income. Many of them, if they enter the judiciary at a younger age, have not had the opportunity to build a substantial practice, so they do not have money to invest, which is one of the few additional incomes they can enjoy. And my concern is that if you want to build a solid judicial system, it ought to be built on an independent basis, and it ought to be built on a basis that is free from reproach, and free from temptation. And I know that the salaries that I spoke about, the 20 percent increase the first year is a substantial one. I don't apologize for that. I think it was needed. I appreciate the additional money which Senator Baack has talked about here over what we had talked about with Senator Haberman's amendment, but I don't think it is sufficient,...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and I am afraid that the time will come when we will regret it. Unfortunately, if we do not build a good solid judicial system and have competent members of that body, then the entire system, as I have said, of government is going to not function well, and I don't think we want that. I am going to listen to the debate and I will make up my mind on the vote probably a little later on but I just want to call your attention to the fact that it is easy to be in the position of criticizing judges. They are not politically powerful. They don't have much money for campaigns, if any. They don't even get involved in the process of putting up signs, and so if you want to fight someone, they are an easy target, a lot easier