

And our people are supposed to be competitive with the agency people. It doesn't make any sense. It doesn't make any sense at all. Same line of reasoning applies to the judiciary. I think we're making a mistake. I really, I guess, I might cause some people to collapse out in the rotunda but I really don't care if the bill moves or not, if you want to nickel and dime it on down another nickel or dime, Senator Hefner and Chambers, that's your prerogative. But I know Senator Chambers and Senator Hefner don't care if it passes either. I know a lot of people here do. But I am just saying that we make the entire process demeaning and we make it a mockery. As I said, it's not a popular bill to carry. None of us signed on that bill because it's going to make us any friends back home. But, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you when the system doesn't work then someone is going to say it was the Legislature's fault.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, you're next but may I introduce one guest, please. Our doctor of the day is Dr. Dwight Rickard of Columbus, Nebraska who, of course, is in Senator Robak's district. Please welcome the doctor for the day. We appreciate your services, doctor. Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Hefner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to give a little perspective on what has happened here this morning. Senator Eaack's amendment would have reduced the 20 percent to 13 percent. Senator Hefner and my amendment reduced that to 10 percent. Had our amendment been rejected, there would have remained the 13 percent. When the vote breaks down 22 to 22, that lets you know that a rate higher than 10 percent puts the bill in jeopardy. No bill can move with 22 votes. I'm telling you that those judges are savvy, especially when it comes to matters like this, and they understand that everything that happens in a political body must, of necessity, be political. That is the nature of the Legislature. That is the nature of legislating. They would rather have something than nothing. Ten percent could not even get off the ground, 20 percent. That 20 percent had no chance of success. I'm not even talking about whether the Governor would veto it, I don't believe it would have gotten off this floor. So what has happened is that Senator Hefner and I have combined to provide a safety net for the judges' desire to have a pay increase. So they might view all of this with mixed emotions but I will tell you what, I'll bet not one judge in this state has so much principle that he will say, if I can't