

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, you're entitled to closing if you would like. Oh, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, my voice will come back after I pull that dagger out from under my ribs that Senator Schmit slid there. Senator Schmit, your comment is well taken but here's the difference between what I said and what it appeared you said some months ago on the Franklin matter. The impression was that the money was what was going to be sought to the exclusion of other things. My insistence is that this grand jury pursue all avenues and all aspects of the matter, so wherever we may have disagreed or misunderstood each other in the past, I think we're in lockstep now and I think what Judge Buckley does in issuing his charge may have some bearing on what happens to this bill from this point on. I do believe in giving very clear messages to those in responsible positions. And the best way to give judges a message is by dealing with their salary. If Chief Justice Hastings does not call Buckley into his office or call him on the telephone and tell him to get this thing straight on this grand jury, then Chief Justice Hastings and none of them deserve a nickel raise. We're talking about a crisis now of confidence. Senator Kristensen, when he talked about an appellate court, was talking about a backlog. We're talking now about public confidence. Every aspect of the criminal justice system has taken a battering through the handling or mishandling of the Franklin affair. It was felt that the judiciary which up till now has been out of it might be the salvation of the entire complex. Then we have a judge who makes a statement that indicates he is going to bottle everything up and his temporizing statements that he made last night in response to my accusation of a cover-up don't reassure me. I think because his statements created a very big question mark in the minds of the public, not just me, but in the minds of the public as to what that grand jury's function is, he has an obligation to lay before the public the exact charge that he gives to that grand jury. And if he says traditionally this has not been done, we're dealing with a situation which does not fall into the pattern of what is traditional. There are all types of questions raised about the ability of the system to function, and when I say system I'm talking about law enforcement and the judiciary. And if the public loses confidence, then there is a serious problem for the society within the State of Nebraska. There will be the belief that everybody is for sale or that