

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, this is the type of veto that's really tempting to sustain, to have a Governor veto her own salary and say, let her live with it. There are some of us that wonder how long she's going to be living with this particular salary. But that gets into the partisan aspect of this sort of thing. A couple of years ago we, on this floor of the Legislature, spent an awful lot of our time and an awful lot of our energy raising our salaries. I don't know if Senator Peterson has turned back his pay increase because it's too much, or donated it to salary, or what he's done. But we looked at statistics on where we compare with other states on legislative salaries, and we indicated that we felt that we needed an increase. And we did it. And it wasn't all that popular among a lot of constituents. Yeah, we did get people to vote for it, but we had some fingers pointed at us. And we did it because we knew it was the right thing to do, that, if you don't make public service worthwhile, you're not going to get worthwhile people to serve the public. And that's all there is to it. Constitutional officers salaries can only be raised once every four years. Four years ago they did receive a raise. It was a tough issue at that time. If we don't pass 503 over the Governor's veto, it will be another four years. And, no, nobody is going to starve to death, but we're going to get further behind in Nebraska. And good, quality individuals, not for Governor, there is always somebody that wants to be Governor, but there is not always somebody that wants to be State Auditor, or somebody that wants to be State Treasurer, Senator Schimek, or some of those other sorts of issues. (Laughter.) You know, I guess there is always somebody that will take on those jobs (laugh). But we really do need to, in all seriousness, we really do need to make these positions worthwhile. I wish the Governor had not vetoed this particular measure. I don't think anybody would have said anything about it had she allowed a reasonable pay increase to go into effect. I think we should sustain the Kristensen veto.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Korshoj, please.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Question.

PRESIDENT: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do, and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor