

for some, their lives go on, makes you think that Methuselah might be making a comeback. But Senator Kristensen made what I think is a Freudian slip. He said the present system of salaries is keeping the best people away from the bench, not will keep, but is keeping. We don't have the best people on the bench right now. So if this salary increase went into effect, are we going to get rid of those that are not the best people on the bench? No, they will be there forever but his kind of argument is the only kind available when he cannot deal with the merits. Here is what the Governor stated. There is no question that the judges deserve an increase. This year, however, is the off budget year and should not be used for an item with such a large fiscal impact. Moreover, since I have been Governor, the judges have received a series of salary increases beginning in 1987, the last of which will take effect on July 1, 1990. This is a proposal that needs careful consideration next year during the regular budget cycle. If you add up the amounts that you find in her second paragraph that tells the amount of impact of this bill, you come to a total of \$3,787,638. Over \$3.5 million is the impact of this bill and the salaries that were started in 1987, that series, has not been completed yet. It will be completed in July of this year. As the Governor rightly points out, there can be a consideration of a big ticket item such as this next year and at that time it should be tied into a discussion of judicial redistricting. There should be consideration given to separating or breaking that coupling between the Chief Justice and all the other courts and judges. That was a mistake when it was done. I opposed it then, was trounced, and we all have had to live with it. But I what I hope you will do is consider the fact that as this bill is drafted, it contains several increments and in the same way that before the past series of incremental increases had exhausted itself, here came another series to be superimposed on that one. Again, I think the Governor is right. The next salary increase that the judges will get will be in July of this year and that is pursuant to a series that was set in motion in 1987. I had said that during the consideration of this bill, all the way up to and including Final Reading, I would not do anything to bother it and I did not. The Governor has vetoed it. It's a new game. I have stated my position. I agree with the rationale given by the Governor and I hope that her veto will be upheld in this instance. Remember, the total impact of this bill is \$3,784,638.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by