

many of those courts. They handle important cases that come before them. The district court bench is a very heavily worked bench in most areas and if it is not in certain areas, it's not the fault of the judge who happens to be sitting on that bench. Now it's good today to stand here and talk about how important is the Supreme Court bench, and I agree with them, it is important. I would suggest that had someone mentioned sometime along the line that you wanted to separate those it could have been done. I'm going to ask you, where is the real cost of employees in the state system? We know where it is, the University of Nebraska. What have we given those very good employees in the last four years? Add it up. Approximately a 50 percent pay increase in four years. How much underpaid were they, ladies and gentlemen, prior to the time you gave them that raise? I don't think they were underpaid. I never saw any mass exodus from the university system. I never saw any strikers from the university system. Ask about the opportunity to earn wages away from the system. We all know that they have the right, and probably justifiably so, to earn a substantial increase in their wages by working outside of the system, consultants, traveling, musical chair games they work out with other universities. Do the judges have that opportunity? Absolutely not. Their confined to their judicial salary.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, may I interrupt you. (Gavel.) Let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers, please. It's way too noisy. Thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Chambers says since the Governor vetoed the bill, all commitments are off. I never asked him to tell me how long his commitment was good for because Senator Chambers can always find some system whereby...or some method whereby he can justify that which he does. I fully expect him, probably, if this vote looks to be close, that he will stand up here on the rostrum and glare at someone that he...as he did last Thursday, and terrify some folks into voting for the override. He's very capable of doing it. He's done it before. I just suggest, for example, that you vote your conscience for a change. When we gave away the right to set state employees' salaries, ladies and gentlemen, we turned over the key to the exchequer to someone off the floor of this Legislature and it has been Katie bar the door ever since. But in order to show our senatorial pride, of course, we retain some of those other salary setting procedures. And we can get up here and give indignant speeches about how we're going to