

housewives, for example; young couples with children, for example. It becomes quite a burden for them and there is no real provision for them to be reimbursed for their expenses. Realizing that employers are obligated to let people off, in many...in cases they reimburse the employer...they do not dock their pay of their employee. The money does probably go back...should go back and does go back to the employer that the juror pays, but it does go back, by the way, via the employee. So I felt that it was important to consider this issue. If you look at the history of it, it's been 1974 since it was raised last. At that time, it was done on the floor, I understood. I thought it was appropriate that we do it this way, to have conversation over it, have a discussion and bring it up. But if you notice there, the consumer price index has gone up 104 percent. This simply raises it to \$30, which is only 50 percent increase, and it does delay the final increase until 1994 at which time it goes to the full \$40. So I submit to you it's simply really a matter of equity and fairness. I hope it is not too excessive for some of you. I have had some discussion with you. But I do think it's fair, and as I looked at many budgets across the state, spot checks, if you will, my own county, frankly, it increases it \$6,000 for the first \$30, and ultimately will go to an increase of \$11,000 by 1994, which I consider reasonable. Lancaster County, it increases a total of \$260,000 by 1994; Douglas County, 860. It is quite a large hit for Douglas County, being the largely populated. And I admit that these are estimates. It simply takes into account what is being done today. Buffalo County increases \$50,000 in total by 1994. I want to emphasize, it takes between September of this year, roughly, assuming a 90-day after adjournment from September of '91 until January 1st of '94 before the full impact hits. Some counties, by the way, don't even have jurors year to year in their budget so it may not even impact some counties immediately. But I simply felt it was an issue of fairness and I would like to urge that in your consideration to go to \$30 upon the adjournment of the Legislature and \$40 January 1st of 1994.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk, do we have a motion on the desk...or amendment on the desk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, Madam President. Senator Nelson would move to amend the bill. (The Nelson amendment appears on pages 454-55 of the Legislative Journal.)