

move to amend. (Read the Cudaback amendment. See page 455 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President and members, those of us that have been in county government realize, I guess, where that money is coming from. I'm not against the \$10 raise but I am against mandating that we do pay such \$40 in the year of 1994. I think we can relate that possibly to the interest on our federal debt. We have our children and grandchildren and whatever pay this huge amount of dollars at the end, who knows when. We all speak to this matter. I just think it's a burden on our people in the year 1994, possibly, to have to pay this extra \$10 when maybe, who know, inflation could possibly be down, whatever. I think it's better maybe to pay the \$5 increase and not have to pay the complete 40. I do feel that we do need an increase but to go ahead with the 40 is too much at this time.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. I will now recognize Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Hefner and Dierks. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President and members, I will be brief on this. I oppose this mostly because I think that the \$40, as originally proposed, is fair. I, too, was on a county board several years ago and I realize the cost to counties potentially can be here. On the other hand, in my county of Cass County, this amounts to an \$11,000 increase by 1994. Out of the budget that they have, I don't think it's that unrealistic to expect this kind of increase. Their costs in most other areas have gone up actually I would say far beyond this. As I have said, if we have a 6 percent inflation rate over the next three years, which will come out to 20 percent approximately compounded, added onto the 104 percent that I have used, the CPI, we're getting up almost to 125 percent level in 20 years. And I can't see that going from 20 to \$40 which is a 100 percent increase is that far out of line compared to what it was in 1974. So that's one argument, that it isn't that unrealistic in terms of the times. I could make the other argument that we ought to be fair and realistic in government. Even though it is a civic responsibility, even though we have the obligation to serve, it ought not to be a burden. And just simply to say that because employers pick that up, in many