

that these people are getting paid twice. My goodness, here we pay them. I think you...I don't want to take your time but that is the answer and I will respond otherwise.

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, I appreciate your taking as much time as you need. My perception, from past experience, is that it is not just a perception, that there is a problem with this in different areas of the state and that court reporters are not treated equitably around the state, nor are some of them expected to give a full day's work for a full day's pay. And I appreciate your remarks about inflexibility and that is always a concern but I would like to see us try a system, perhaps, where we allowed the court system to at least set a standard, and then allow, hopefully, within where necessary and appropriate, differences in different parts of the state. I hate to raise fees and, consequently, raise reimbursement to all court reporters regardless of what situations they may be in around the state. Most of them, undoubtedly, deserve it and I have no problem with somebody who is working extra hours to do this. I admire people who are willing to do this. But I think that clearly something needs to be done on this matter. This has been a sore spot for years and years and years. It was a sore spot when I was here before and still nothing is done. So I would just leave it at that, Senator Kristensen, for the moment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Kristensen, followed by Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. And, Senator Beutler, I want to continue on with my discussion with you a little bit about what all goes into this. Their salary also...or does not include any of that equipment, and so they are going to have to go off and buy their own equipment to spend their time, and I know very few state employees who would want to work for their salary if they had to go and buy their typewriters, their word processors, the paper that they used, and so on. It is a matter of making them fit the job and their flexibility to do that job. Currently, if you take the 12 states surrounding us, our court reporters are paid eleventh out of the 12 in terms of salary. So we have got one of the lowest paid salaries around. If we do this and do our increase, we climb up to about the middle for fees. Not for salaries, we are still going to be low on salaries because we are not increasing those salaries, but we are going to raise up...for