

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...place. It does not put a new program in place. It allows us to continue to do what we have been doing. Nobody is required to give a full 5 percent merit increase to an employee. You can choose to give your employee nothing in the way of an increase. But this amendment simply allows us to continue doing what we have been doing. It is not new but it is somewhat fair. So I hope we will have enough senators who will recognize justice to the extent of supporting this amendment. The fact that we cannot get adequate pay as senators, the fact that we will never get adequate pay as senators because they hate us, they hate us worse than cockroaches, Senator Hefner.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You said time. Just to finish this sentence, the fact that we cannot get paid, they hate us worse than they hate cockroaches, should not cause us to do the same to our employees.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Morrissey, Wehrbein, Hillman and Hall. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr.,...or Madam President and members of the body, can't believe I did that. (Laughter.) I reluctantly get up to prolong this debate but since I was the fifth vote for getting this onto the floor I thought I ought to explain why I did vote. On the first...on the first plan that was presented to the committee, I reluctantly voted no because I wasn't sure that the money was there. It does compound itself after the first year and I thought that with the study plan that Senator Chambers mentioned that we could take a look at it this summer but that the thing that I wanted to do was to go ahead and implement this merit pay plan for this year anyway and then we could decide what to do after we've taken a good, hard look at it. I guess I would recommend to you that you do the same. And, with that, I would cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise to support the amendment. Some of you smarter senators might