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Under the three year average they would receive \$49,723.24. That is a Supreme Court judge, and if you take them on down, the district court would receive 45,993; juvenile court 45,993; county court and the workmen's comp about 42,000.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Schmit. I think this sounds realistic and so I believe at this time I can support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I'll try to be brief. I just have a couple of points that I'd like to discuss. One is that I think that increasing the retirement benefits will contribute to our efforts to have quality applicants and quality judges in the State of Nebraska. We previously evidenced our concern with that issue by increasing and providing for continued increases in judicial salaries. This is one more element in that process and I think it could be passed on that basis alone. That is certainly a worthy purpose for this type of legislation. Secondly, I think we have purely a numbers or actuarial reason for advancing this piece of legislation. As we have judges contributing 6 percent of their salaries, we will find that this pool continues to grow, the pool of funds that are available for retirement benefits. But if we do not allow the retirement benefits to keep pace with the increase in salaries, we will literally find a pool of funds that we cannot pay to anyone. The surplus would simply continue to grow as the judges continue to work. I think it is fair and appropriate to have the retirement benefits paid to those judges who have paid it in and who have worked on the cases where you have the \$1.00 contributed. I think they have worked and they have served us well and are entitled to an adequate retirement and this bill would assist those efforts. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Madam President, I'd like to ask one quick question of Senator Schmit, please. Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schmit, Senator Cudaback has a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'd like to ask one quick question here.