

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Chambers, do you wish to speak to the Johnson amendment?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I will support Senator Johnson's amendment for the same reasons I supported his other one, Friday. But I'm beginning to see something developing here that makes me wonder whether there is any logic or rationality behind the drafting of this bill and setting the limits, the suggested limits. If the Governor made \$100,000 a year, which he or she does not, but I'm making it easy for myself, the suggested maximum of \$1,500,000 is about 15 times the Governor's salary. So, in reality it's at least 25 times the Governor's salary that is allowed as a maximum. Why not peg the maximum to the salary. When a person is going to spend 25 times the salary of an office to get that office, it's clear that something is going on here that probably should not go on. By the time you get down to the Legislature, it's just a little more than 4 times what the salary is. So, wait a minute. We only make \$10,000 a year...12 thou...okay, we make \$12,000. See, when you make those titling amounts, sometimes it slips away from you. And then when you take home under \$700 a month, after taxes, well it's not really like a salary, more like an alms, except you work so hard for it. But anyway, without getting lost in calculations that I'm really going to mess up now, if I try, there is no correlation with reference to the amount of salary that a legislator can raise as a maximum and what a Governor or candidate for Governor can raise as a maximum. The disparity might exist because a person would argue that running for Governor is statewide, running for legislator is district wide. But as Senator Schmit and Senator Johnson have pointed out, some of the districts are very, very large in terms of geography, so it's difficult to cover them. So, maybe some of those things should be factored in, and we would weight these factors so that depending on the circumstances a person faces in running for the office, the amount of the suggested maximum would vary. If we are really trying to be just and rational, then there would have to be a logical and rational connection between the maximum that's set for a particular office, and whatever the goal is being sought to achieve. If the goal being sought is to make there be some correlation between the importance of the office or the salary of the office, then maybe you could just give a flat amount, no matter what circumstances a person running for that office would face. But if it's supposed to, in addition to creating some kind of