

May 3, 1995

LB 490

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kristensen, as your bill is drafted, is there any relationship or a tie to these salaries and those of the judges?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I did it in terms of duties.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And if I could...I'll punch my light on and give you more time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I meant as far as setting the salary, that it would increase with the judges.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, the reason I did that is because that I suspect that their work is much like that of a judicial nature. In other words, they were like a three panel of the Court of Appeals, hearing appeals throughout the state, listening to those, having to make findings and using expertise in those areas. And conceptually, that's where I began the salaries at, and I thought they were roughly worth that of a county court judge.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. And with that in the record, see I was going to be opposed to tying it to the judges. But I read Senator Vrtiska's amendment, and I was thinking that by tying it to the judges was what caused him to lower the salaries. The difficulty I have is that the judges may displease the Legislature and they may not...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I think I'm going to give this one a red light, unless I hear good, strong arguments to make me change my mind. Senator Chambers has touched on some of the things that I put my light on to say. But one of the things that I think we need to think about is what kind of position these people who will be doing this work will be in. And there will be political heat, there is no question about it. They will have to have pretty tough hides. And I think that we do not want someone for this kind of a position who is young, inexperienced, maybe willing to