

to time, and the pay raises that come, so be it. It's...it just seemed reasonably logical to me that if we were always going to pay them, they are entitled to be paid simply as we are now. I know the Legislature gets their power from the Constitution, it is set in law, and we don't have to worry about increases or proposed increases. It is set. And the judges, you may want to make them, but, I don't know, I guess I should have done some research for the last 100 years that judges have been treated differently than all the other employes of the State of Nebraska, I don't know that. But to me it didn't make common sense that they should be treated any differently. They are an equal branch of government, certainly ought to be treated logically. But if there is a feeling in the body that they don't want that, they want...like I just said, the Judiciary Committee did pass it out. It wasn't that our committee took any particular license with this. We simply wanted to be sure that the judges were paid. So if the body wants to go with this, make the argument on LB 189, I can accept that. There is a concern about being something more than a bill than just the salaries of the judges. That's part of law too that you cannot, Constitution, so I guess they do have to be paid under this if this amendment goes through, but LB 189 would have to pass, the way I understand it, and the body should know that, that difference. It is a difference of philosophy of who should make the determination. I really, truly, don't feel, in defense of the Appropriations Committee and myself, that we particularly were out to grab for any power. That isn't my thought at all. It was simply somewhat logical to us that if there is entitlement of a pay increase due, so be it, that it would come routinely through us. But if we want to argue it, well, maybe, we should say discuss this issue time after time over the years about whether the judicial is entitled to the same pay increases that all others, I guess that's the...would be the will of the body. So with that, I, as a practical matter, I'm going to oppose Senator Withem's amendment simply because I believe it is a common sense logic.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It has nothing to do, in my mind, with turf, over whether Appropriations or the Judiciary Committee should do this. If the body decides that they want to continue like they've been doing, that's fine, but I, at this point, will oppose Senator Withem's amendment.