

would they get their salary increase? They'd get their salary increase, as they have historically over the years, as they would have had the Governor signed LB 903 last year, with substantive language in the bill and then the A bill following along behind that containing the appropriation for it.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: In LB 189 in this case?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And LB 189 was a priority bill?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, it was. It is Senator Crosby's priority bill.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay. I just wanted to be clear what's going on because I resent somewhat the implications made here. Call it naivete if you want, all I want to do is play it straight at this point, and I am aware of all the interesting things going on behind the scenes, perhaps not all. I don't think any of us are aware of all the things that go on behind the scenes. But the leverage, the what word did you use, Senator Chambers, that goes on? The leverage, I guess is the correct word, is going on and making things happen I guess it part of the process. It is just my feeling that the judiciary process isn't...judicial pay issue shouldn't necessarily be a part of that. I don't...I don't care if the amendment passes. I am going to vote against it on principle. I understand theirs will work out and once again we'll move on, but the point ought to be that what is needed to be done in terms of pay should be done, and I would take exception to what Senator Chambers said.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: If he wants to have leverage over the judges and the judiciary across the state, perhaps the kind of oversight he wants and perhaps there is some degree of need in that, but, on the other hand, when I see the things that are held hostage over the years, in my little time here, sometimes we are going to be forced to make some decisions on some policies based on the judges salary, and I don't know whether that is proper use of leverage or not. In fact, I don't think it is. We are going to be excepting some judgeships. We are going to be doing some restructuring into the future and all because if you don't do that you are not going to get a pay