

judges, who didn't have to negotiate with anybody, and we're going to give them this increase. I think the judges are important and they perform an important function. I want to get all of that out of the way, but I'm in opposition to the way we have handled salary matters, not just here, but including what the Governor has done. And when he goes around the state and lambastes the Legislature even worse than some of us will do, it's really unfair. And to indicate that there was not an effort to do what the members on the Appropriations Committee thought was right I think is unfair. I might disagree with them. I might say they were very boneheaded to take money that has not even come from the Maximus contract and apply it as though it is here. But I am not going to say they were venal and dishonest or any of those things. Ignorance can be corrected if they'll just listen, but the Governor went beyond that. And I don't know if you all read some of his remarks, but what you ought to do is reduce the judges pay increase, but that can't be done. So I'd say we strike it, and then next session we can come back and put their pay increase in perspective and sync with everybody else who is an employee other than ourselves. I don't think anybody ought to be paid at the low rate which we are paid, but I don't think the judges salary increase is justified. I know that the Bar Association and the lobbyists have worked very hard to get this bill to the point where we find it now. We came through the traumatic discussions about efforts to circumvent using the traditional method which is a bill to obtain an increase for the judges. That was negotiated successfully. By that I meant we got through it, but now we are at this point where they are being given a salary increase which I think is to be fully funded. I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question on that score, if I may.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, again, Senator Wehrbein, these questions are just to get information. Does the A bill fully fund the increase which is contained in LB 189?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Oh, let me ask you this question. And again for information, based on what the Governor did in his veto, there would be money available for a 3 percent increase