

there, but the section that delineates the Supreme...the salary would not. I do not think that is good policy. I would suggest maybe to accomplish what you want to accomplish, the better route would be to do the old strike the new language and reinsert the stricken language in those particular lines. I would not vote for that amendment, but I think that would be a better draft to accomplish what you want to accomplish. I would not vote for that because I think we have delayed the salary increase for judges over the years. It was vetoed last year. It has been a number of years since they received a salary increase.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I think they are deserving of one, but it certainly, if the membership does not want to pass a bill that has a salary increase in it for judges, I certainly will not be much the lesser of an individual for that, if that's the will of the body.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I also rise...I was I guess somewhat involved in getting this bill to this stage, although I am a little bit different than Senator Withem, I do have...well, I guess maybe not different, but I do have a concern with this bill in that I would like...I think it ought to pass this year. The provisions in it I think are threefold. The salary increase for judges which is set at a level equivalent to that being received by state employees, and addition of a district judge in Sarpy County that Senator Avery, I believe, had an interest in also, and then some language requiring a meeting of the Judicial Resources Commission to hopefully get us started along the path of reallocation of judicial resources. So there are I guess three components of it. The judicial pay raise is one that I think...I believe the last pay raise was before the state employees received their last pay raise. It has been longer since the judicial salaries have been adjusted, and I think it is important that judicial salaries be set at a level to draw the best of attorneys out of private practice and into the field of the judiciary. Certainly these salaries are set at a level that most people in this room don't make, certainly above what I would make, and I would think most of us here. But if we are to attract those who would be at the peak level of trial practice, we are going to have to pay a little bit higher salary, and it