

Lindsay pointed out, they would be points two and three of his earlier discussion, but that we go ahead and approve the first increase to the judges salaries since 1992. A modest 4 percent increase the first year, and a 3 1/2 percent increase the second year, that I think if you were to go back over the course of the last three years, most people would agree that that would be a modest increase, but it is, in fact, an increase, and it will be reported as an increase, that we would go ahead, as a body, and adopt LB 189, and then the Governor would turn around and veto that as part of his making sure that we have a leaner meaner state government. So I would be interested prior to a vote to return this to Select File if somebody could possibly provide me with the information as to whether or not the Governor has signed off on the provisions located in LB 189. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Chambers, you give me an opportunity to make a statement that I wanted to make and not sure that I should make, but I need to tell you that on a day not too long ago when I picked up the paper, had you had this motion before me, I probably would have supported you, because on a very narrow decision, the Supreme Court overturned a second degree murder case, finding that malice was a necessary part of the instructions to the jury, when, in fact, this Legislature had removed the word "malice" from the definition of second degree murder several years ago, which I alluded to in Senator Luedtke's article this morning a little bit, and that disturbed me a great deal. And my initial reaction was if they want to legislate, then let's pay them like legislators, which would be a whole lot less than where we are at right now. But the better judgment I think over time prevailed, and I think it only serves the point that I wish to make, and that is that how crucial it is to have the very best people you can in the position of judges because they can have such terrific impact on so many people's lives. They have to be, you have to find the best people. In this instance, the split decision will overturn over a hundred murder cases, the first of which has already hit back in our county. The cost at the local level of retrying the cases, of finding the witnesses, of trying to once again get a conviction is going to run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. And the dissent in the case, State v. Williams, which I hope everyone here reads the case, if they haven't already, the dissent is a very logical dissent, I