

think. This case was before the court once before. They did not find this error at that time, even though they had the perfect right to do so, and yet on this, another appeal, they do find this to be an error, and they are, in effect, writing the definition for the crime instead of the Legislature, and that bothers me a great deal. Nevertheless, having gotten that off my chest, I think the better course here is to...is to support the increase to encourage good people to run for these positions. As it was pointed out previously, there has not been an increase since 1992. This is not...this is not a very generous increase when you consider the number of years that it will be spread over, from '92 to the end of this "biem" and for that reason I will support the increase, irregardless of what the Governor or anybody else wants to do. What they do is what they do, but, in my opinion, as we sit here right now, the better course of action is to go ahead and approve the bill as it is presented to us. Thank you.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, the sheet that is coming around to your desk with Senator Withem's initials on it will give you a basis for comparing where the judges are relative to a hypothetical state employee based on salary increases that have come to both down through the years, and you will see in some instances, the judges got as high as...well, not some, in one instance as high as a 12 percent increase, another instance of a 10 percent increase, then a 7 percent increase. So they still are outstripping the other employees, if that is what the percentage of their salary increase is being keyed to, but here's another difference. There is full funding of the amount for the judges. There is not that funding for the other employees. So how can we say, or why should we even pretend to say that these increases laid out for the judges are keyed to what is going to the other employees. The other employees are not getting the amount that the judges are getting, unless I misunderstand what was stated. So I will ask...I will ask Senator Maurstad, because Senator Wehrbein is going to get some information. Senator Maurstad,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...did I state correctly what the situation is?