

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No, not exactly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So would you clarify it?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: The individual state employees will receive a 4 percent increase the first year, a 3 1/2 percent increase the second year. In the aggregate by agency, they will only be funded, that agency will only be funded a 3 percent, at a 3 percent level of what their payroll might be, which means there are two effects that could occur. They will either have to, if they are top-heavy in personnel, reduce the number of personnel, or they would have to find savings in the operations part of their budget as opposed to...because it won't be there on the personnel, personnel side, if I'm being clear.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, that is crystal-clear. But they have to pay the employees the 4 percent increase?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now on the side of the judges, and I thank you for clarifying that for me, has the same approach been taken to the judiciary where in the aggregate they were funded an amount that would allow the judges to be paid the 4 percent and the 3 1/2 percent, but there is funding for only 3 percent and the remainder has to be taken out of their operational budget, was that done to the courts also?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, the state courts would have been treated that way, but this goes beyond that implication, and that is the reason why it is important that this be funded at 4 percent and the 3 1/2 percent because all the judges in the state, even those that are not funded by state resources, are paid in accordance with the schedule that is developed off of the Supreme Court's.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But however way we cut it when we get through, there was full funding for the court system to cover this full amount without requiring anything to be taken out of an operational budget to fund any part of these salary increases?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No, no, the Supreme Court, the state courts, the Supreme Court was treated the same way as the other agencies...