

Legislature. Senator Maurstad was just going to share some information with me, so I will ask if he is willing to do it so that we all can have the benefit of it.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Since the Fiscal Office has just indicated to me that the judges, the Governor's veto did not include the judges, so that would be different than some of the other...other agencies.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So that it's clear, they do get all of...there's is full funded?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Any nobody else is?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: (Off mike. Inaudible.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I meant the other agencies. Generally he went across the board and cut. So why are the judges treated differently, if we are going to key this to what the other employees are getting? Because the judges are to be handled in a different manner. And some senators believe that that is all right. That would just reflect a different philosophical attitude we take toward ordinary state employees and the cream of the crop employees, who are the judges. Senator, I forget which senator said it, but was talking about, maybe it was Senator Bromm, paying enough money so that you can get better people to run for these positions, that they rip and run every time there is a vacancy till their little tongues are hanging out. They don't seem...none of them seem worried about the absence of salary increases. They struggle for that. There is political maneuvering involved in which names are submitted to the Governor. This is not a circumstance, and I am talking about selecting judges now, where all of the best people who are lawyers get a fair shake. You have to go before this commission and present yourself to them and try to persuade them, even though their minds are made up already, that you should be put on the short list which will be given to the Governor. At the federal level, that is political. At the state level, it is political. It always has been, always will be. Judges are