

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 6, 1999

LB 404, 404A, 530, 548, 548A, 623, 687, 687A
740, 813
LR 4

commission. Illinois, almost \$51,000 is the base salary. They have a compensation commission. Indiana sets their own legislator salaries. They're just right at the same level, roughly, that we're at. Iowa has a compensation commission; they're paying almost \$21,000. South Dakota is in session 40 days; they're half of what we're at. North Dakota, they...the sheet I show with them is they only meet every other year, and they get paid \$13,000, and they only meet every other year. We have fallen behind, if you...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...look at most of the other states. I think it's time for the voters to again examine legislative compensation. Now, Senator Coordsen is going to...I hope...I think he's got his light on. I think he has some interesting perspectives as well. The next bill up, and what I would envision us to do is to debate both of these; if possible, try to determine at some point in time before this session is out which one to go forward with, but we need some input. And I understand that people may not have a solid preference at this point as to what would pass and what would be the best policy. All I'm asking is that it's now been over a decade, we're having the low ebb of experience, we've had high turnover, our years of experience are now at six years...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 813, LB 548, LB 548A, LB 687, LB 687A, LB 623, LB 740, LB 404, LB 404A, and LB 530. (Legislative Journal page 1912.) For additional discussion on LR 4CA, Senator Coordsen, followed by Schimek, Brown, and Crosby. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I don't know, Senator Kristensen, if I have an interesting perspective on this or not, but there are issues that I think no legislative body wishes to talk about. And I suppose we could establish a list of those. Were I to ask the members, how's your sex life, I would first of all get your attention, and there wouldn't be any volunteers as to that particular status. If I were to ask you, what's your net worth,