

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

May 6, 1999

LR 4

and make the same amount as he does being Governor, and that's not to be disparaging at all to the Wheat Board; I'm just talking about the responsibility in terms of the number of people. I think the Wheat Board has one staff person attached to it. Think of the number of people that the Governor is responsible to. So this is, to me, the first step that we need to take to making sure that our elected officials are compensated in a way that allows us to continue to have good people and to have diversity of opinion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Crosby on the resolution.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. It...I'm going to support both of these today. I think they should both be on the ballot, because I think they give the voters an option. A little history, and DiAnna gave some of it. Years ago I know it was \$200 a year or something. It took years and years to get it up to \$400 a month, \$4,800 a year. It was on the ballot more than once, and the voters turned it down. Part of the reason for that was that at that time we met...we were elected every two years and we met every other year. It did change to the four year, and then eventually they got \$4,800 a year, \$400 a month. At that time, \$400 a month probably looked pretty good to some young people. Because of the average salaries that were around at the time, or if you're just coming out of school or whatever, it wasn't too bad. But a little history about 1988 when it was on the ballot, there was a concerted effort by businesspeople and others to see to it that the voters did understand what was being done and that they understood that it wasn't anything that anyone could retire on. And Woody Varner, I remember in particular, was one of the chairs and went all out to see to it that people did understand what was being done and that it was needed. The first...the other...one of the other things I want to say...oh, and then I believe, Senator Kristensen, there was a special session that year. Yeah, you had to have a special session to implement after it was passed. Right, and so they had that before January of 1989 to have the salary in place. But the other thing, I don't think it's ever fair to say that you'll get a different class of people running for Legislature. I...maybe "fair" isn't the right word, but people run for office because they want to.