

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

May 6, 1999

LR 4

I know, do serve because it's a very high-paying job. We don't want that in Nebraska. I don't think it's necessary. But when I was back in North Platte and talking to some people and they asked me about legislative pay, and I said, well, let's just put it this way; you operate a business, would you pay somebody \$1,000 a month to operate a \$4.7 billion business? And it just doesn't make any sense. So I think we need to not be shy about the fact that we should be reasonably compensated. There's a movement on, and has been for a number of years, about term limits. And I think we're solving...or, they're trying to solve the wrong problem. We already have term limits. The first one is the ballot, and the second one is, look at the history of the Nebraska Legislature. The average tenure in the Legislature now is about six years. So we don't have the longstanding situation that this seems to be worried about. I think what we need to look at is making the salary in Nebraska for the Legislature such that gives people who want to serve the opportunity to serve. We've all known of very competent legislators who have had to leave office because they simply could not afford to stay in the Legislature. It was not their desire to leave the Legislature, but they simply felt they couldn't handle it any more financially. And I don't think we should put people in that kind of a position. I'm proud to be in the Legislature, and I'm proud of the legislators in Nebraska. This will not affect me whether there's a pay raise or not, but I know that it's something that we need to look at for the long term. And I think we need to look down the road and see what kind of a Legislature we'll have 5, 10, 15 years from now.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: We need to set the foundation for that at this time. So with that, I say that my first preference would be the commission form, and I thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Those wishing to speak on the advancement of LR 4CA are Senators Kristensen, Coordsen, Stuhr, Redfield, Jones, Schmitt, and Wickersham. Senator Kristensen.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to waive off and listen to the others.