

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

May 6, 1999

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I'm up already?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You're up.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Well, we're looking at the commission, of course, in this particular bill. And this is a way to separate the Legislature from their compensation. Senator Pederson made, I think, some valid points, except that I do not believe that if we're to have a citizen legislature, that they all be people of means. I think we need to have a system that folks who are trying to raise a family, folks who have jobs perhaps, or businesses that have not allowed them to accumulate a certain amount of personal resources, I think we need a variety in the Legislature. And I'm not so sure that a compensation level that is about the same as a minimum wage job would be for...for full time, 2,000 hours a year, is the way to encourage people to consider being a part of this body. According to people who look at these things and write articles, there is a growing alienation between the majority of the citizens of the United States, and probably true of Nebraska, and their government. And it is quite possible, and in my mind it would be true, that one of the reasons is that legislatures have become separate from the people of the state. We have become an entity that lives for our own concerns rather than the concerns and needs of the citizenry. If, for an example, we went to the other extreme and had no compensation, we would have 49 members of the Legislature. We would have 49 members here. And there would not be a vacancy. But I would ask you, would those 49 members represent blue-collar folks? Would those 49 members represent the lower-compensated areas of professional life? Would they represent the average farmer? I would charge you that they would not. And philosophically, there isn't a great deal of difference between zero compensation and what the Legislature currently gets. I do not believe that there's a member here present today that is here because of compensation or in spite of compensation. It's an issue that we are absolutely embarrassed to talk about. I will tell you this, that I am committed to the principle that were it to be possible, I would