

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

May 25, 1999

LR 5

salaries. And so, as I did when I was a school board member, I invite any member of the public to come and spend a day with us, particularly a nice long day, and they will see how we earn our pay, meager as it is. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Price. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. A few days ago I receive a postcard in the mail and it validates an awful lot of what Senator Chambers said and what Senator Vrtiska said. I want to read it to you, just a few lines long. First of all, it's addressed Nebraska State Congressman, State Capitol Building, Lincoln. It was put in my box because it's from Ogallala. It isn't even addressed to me. It says, and I quote: I see by the papers you are wanting your wages doubled. You tell how low your salaries are, but I have never read how little time you spend on the job. And do you get paid whether you attend the sessions or not, three question marks. The whole story should be made public so that people could justly determine what, if any, adjustments should be made. Best wishes always, and then there's a signature, and it's dated from Ogallala. I think it just verifies what Senator Chambers and Senator Vrtiska and Senator Price have said; the public has very little understanding of what we do. I think that Senator Kristensen's recommendation to this body is absolutely accurate. This is a matter that should be carried over to the next session and we should, in some manner, try and tell our constituents and our public what our jobs are and...and tell them how little time we spend on the job (laugh) and whether we get paid whether we attend the sessions or not. (Laugh) Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Further discussion on the Jones amendment, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I was inspired by Senator Chambers. I...my wife and I, during session, live in a small broom closet, "bookended" between the luxurious townhomes of Senator Wickersham and Senator Engel, liberal big spenders that they are. And I commented that I could feel my rock bound conservatism ebbing away with the aura of liberalism that came through the walls of the adjoining apartments. And Senator Wickersham, when I shared that with him, said, well, the worst