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LB 956

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to ask Senator Schimek a question, if I may?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schimek, do you remember, you probably don't, but the salary for Louisiana's Governor?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I can tell you in a minute, Senator. It is \$95,000.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I'm sure that the proviso is not included on your list where it says \$95,000 salary and all he can steal.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: (Laugh) No, it's not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's not...okay. Thank you. If we won't raise the salary I think we ought to at least put that provision in...in the law. I was the one who offered this bill last time and it was vetoed, and it was vetoed at a time when we had no opportunity to override. We have to, as a Legislature, do what is right and forget anything a Governor may do or say, forget any comment by any person who is holding one of these offices. We are not...we are not increasing the salary of an officeholder. We are providing the compensation that attaches to the office regardless of who holds it. So I think any negative attitudes we may have toward any person who is in one of those offices or if we have a negative attitude toward all of them, the right thing is to give a decent salary. I don't think these salaries that Senator Schimek is offering are high enough, but we have to take what may politically be feasible. I'm one of those who starts at the high end and will make them bring it down, make...they will make me bring it down, but in this instance I'm going to support this legislation as I always do. The fact that we cannot get a salary increase should not cause us to prevent others from receiving the compensation that ought to go with the office. The Governor is the top official in the state. Under the constitution, he or she is to administer the laws and see that they are carried out in an appropriate manner. Some Governors do a better job than others, but we set the salary based on what the requirements of the office are. And