

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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stand up here in the Legislature and other places for the state employees, for all public employees. Does the Legislature, do we treat our staffs as well as we think we should treat the constitutional officers? Do any of you pay any attention to the fact that these people end up, when they retire, with, quite often, not enough to live on because we have been chintzy over the years? Getting the retirement system started for the state employees was a major project, let me tell you, folks. If you..you probably didn't think back nor weren't paying attention at the time that that retirement program was established. It was a major project and there are still people who think public employees don't deserve to have a retirement. I wish there were some rule that each one of you would have to spend a little time on the Retirement Committee, because then you see how much money goes into that and how sometimes the ratio that people end up with isn't a whole lot. Most of these people don't make a lot of money so the next time that the contract comes around, and you understand that I don't have any idea what the percentage might be that the union will ask for, for the state employees, I don't want to hear any one of you, and I'll be listening, I don't want to hear any one of you say that some person that's making 25 thousand dollars a year shouldn't make 26 thousand. The state employees, the public employees, the school employees, all of those people are the ones that make our offices and the offices in this building and over in that state office building and down in Haymarket and in Omaha and out west, wherever they are, they're the ones who make government work. They're the ones who carry out all this great policy you talk about all the time. They're the ones that have to carry out that policy. So all I'm asking of you today, and I am going to vote no and it's simply...it's symbolic for me because next year, when you start looking at what you're going to pay your staff, what the employees are going to ask for under the contract, what the retirement system maybe needs to be sure that it is...stays solvent and is a steady return for the money that those people have put in there, be a little...be as generous as you are prepared to be today to the constitutional officers and be sure that those state employees and all the public employees are reimbursed and paid for the work that they do and for the hours that they put in. Look at our own staff. We go home; they stay here. The Clerk's Office has to stay and finish up and be here to get ready for next January. So that's