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LB 598

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Schrock on AM0783.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, first of all, I want to personally say that I don't agree with term limits. I think it's bad. But I represent seven counties that overwhelmingly voted in favor of term limits. Now I don't think we're a very beloved body by the state of Nebraska. And I don't know why that is, but I suspect it's not much different in any state. It's throw the rascals out. Yes, we like our rascal, but throw the rest of them out. And if you think we're beloved, just start reading the editorials in the newspapers. You know, probably...I don't know what you compare to. Look at the cartoons. And if we are perceived to step out of line, boy, they really crucify us. And I'm not...you know what I'm talking about. I'm not going to go any further on that. I think it looks very self-serving for us to do this. And I understand why, and I respect what you're trying to do. And like I said, I don't agree with term limits. But if the public really liked us, don't you think they'd want to pay us more? And it's...for every two times something is put on the ballot to increase salaries,...it was successful, what, back in '86? Senator Wehrbein might know. Back in '86 they raised salaries. But how many times did it fail before that? And we've been skeptical of trying to put something on the ballot. And you don't see any rush by the public to put something on the ballot to increase our salaries. So you know what they think we're worth. You put two zeros on the back of your salary, that's what the football coach makes. So the football salaries could pay our...the head football coach at the University of Nebraska could pay our salaries twice over, as a group. So you know, we're pretty cheap. We're pretty expendable. I did have a constitutional amendment that the Exec Committee killed that would have extended it to 12 years. To me, that was something that was acceptable, because I don't want to go against what my constituents said. And I think this was a compromise. And if there's one thing I've learned in the 11 years I've been here, you compromise or you don't get much done. And I also think it would be more effective if the public had an outcry, and they had a petition drive, and they put the issue on the ballot. It wouldn't seem so self-serving. And I know there's some chamber