

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

March 24, 2005 LR 12

responded, and of those responding, 112 said that, yes, we did deserve a pay raise. Twenty-one of them said, yes but not now, meaning not while we were having a fiscal downturn. Sixty-six of them said, no; and another 16 of them said, no but later. In other words, the vast majority said that they thought that we needed that kind of...that we needed that kind of thing to happen. In addition, if you look at your committee statement, you'll see that the League of Municipalities, Common Cause, Nebraska State Education Association, all testified in favor. In addition since that time, I've received e-mails and letters and letters in my office from the Center for Rural Affairs, the Appleseed Center, the League of Women Voters, Nebraskans for Peace, who all support this. I also know that many other organizations, like the State Chamber, for instance, have been supportive of this kind of a ballot issue for a long, long time. So I think there is support out there. I would ask that you thoughtfully consider this. I think that we should put this on the ballot. I think we should put it perhaps on the spring ballot next year. And it could go either way. Of course, if you want to put it on the spring ballot, we have to have 40 votes to do so. If you want to put it on the general election ballot, it only takes 30 votes. So I'd ask you to think about all these different...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...issues as we discuss this this morning. Just remember, it really isn't about us. It really is about the institution. And I think that this is the right thing to do. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you Chairman...or Senator Schimek. There are committee amendments as stated by the Clerk. Senator Engel, as Chairman of the Exec Board, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President and members of the body, this is a little unusual, but I'm going to ask that you vote no on the committee amendment to LR 12CA. The committee amendment was to...an attempt to modernize language in the constitution that is not relevant to today's employment practices. However, after further consideration after discussing the committee amendment