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they either accept or deny, and then we move on from there. Now the bottom line is, I don't know if I deserve a raise. I studied this thing for four years, I looked at it, I knew what I was going to get paid, and I said, yeah, looks good to me. Now, don't ask me that question now, but it did then, for \$12,000 a year. Would \$12,000 more help me and my family? Probably. But that's not how I'm going to base my decision, and I'm also not going to base it on politics. I hope you guys wouldn't either. That's all I had, Mr. President. Thanks.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I think Senator Schimek needs to be applauded for bringing this amendment forwards. This is something that I think probably the time has come to do. When the state was under duress with their budget and that sort of thing, it wasn't exactly a time to be discussing wages. I think by improving it or increasing it...to the doubling it, is...which is what it is, to the \$24,000. And sure, it will help recruit people and make it a little bit more presentable for people in the...especially in the western part of the state to be able to come down here and serve in the Legislature. At the present time, why, anyone that probably lives 200 miles or farther from Lincoln cannot really carry on their business and still be in the Legislature at the same time. You have to have some mechanism to take care of your livelihood while you're down here because this is actually a full-time job for, you might say, six months out of the year. So I think by increasing the salary will help somewhat that those people that are interested in becoming legislators will have a little bit more to go on, and it will probably improve the type of people and those that...improve their standing, I guess I should say, for them to come down here and be a part of the Legislature. Another point that I would like to make, that when you put this on the ballot and people are voting for it, there are also...you're going to be a test of the respect that the Legislature has. If we...if this thing gets voted down 60 to 40 or something like that, we have our own work to do to cut out for our own public relations and to enhance the relationship that the Legislature has to the state of Nebraska. There's been legislation passed that many people