

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

March 24, 2005

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have questioned, and we wondered why we did that. And so whenever some of this legislation comes up, I think you want to consider that. This not only will be a test to see if we increase the salaries of the legislators; it will also, I think, be a test to see what our public relations is and what kind of respect we have in the state of Nebraska. This is...the major government entity in Nebraska is the Legislature. They're very important. They wield enormous amount of power. When they're in session, they can usually do anything that they so desire as long as you have your 25 or 33 votes to go along with it. So they are the most powerful body in Nebraska. I firmly believe and I support this amendment that we raise the salaries of such. I'm sure there are people out there that would be interested in it but cannot figure out the way to come down here and live in Lincoln for six months out of the year, and then be able to continue their livelihood at home. When you compare some of the numbers to the other states, like your Colorado, some of those numbers are a little bit misleading because in Nebraska we do have a staff and an office, where some of the other states have to furnish their own staff and office. I would like to point that out on some of that. I think we've been very progressive with the Legislature in Nebraska by furnishing the senators a staff. And we have at our disposal some very good agencies around that bring us material that...on a timely fashion whenever we need it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: So with that, I certainly support this amendment and I'm going to vote for it. And as I go out into my district, I will promote this legislative amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Engel, followed by Senators Flood, Mines, and Chambers. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President and members of the body, first of all, I'd like to mention that there aren't any of us currently serving who should be complaining about the salaries and/or the benefits, because we knew what they were when we came in. And again, some of us are serving because it was the right time of life when we could afford to serve. And in my particular case,