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LB 423

answer. What difference does a constitution make? Why should that stop us from doing anything, in your opinion?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Because we are a constitutionally authorized state, and this body is directed by the people of the state of Nebraska, in this case, to have a salary fixed at \$12,000 per year. And being a nation and a state of laws, we are required to abide by that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, I don't want to be picayunish, or nitpicking, but does the constitution say a salary not to exceed \$12,000? Or does it say the salary must be \$12,000?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I don't have it in front of me. But it's my...it's always been my assumption that it was exactly \$12,000.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: An assumption.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Not "up to," but just...well, I'd have to look at it. Having practiced law for a long time, ordinarily, on something like that, on a specific question, I would look at the constitution and see. But I'm sure that it says \$12,000, period.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: For the stakes to go to respective charities, how much are you willing to bet on the correctness of what you are saying?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'd feel more comfortable looking at the constitution.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You don't want to bet, because you're really not sure, correct?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I thought we turned down gambling, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, that's by...in the casino.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Oh.