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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 683

that they are proposing. Looking for the regional average, the Governor, \$114,000; we're proposing \$100,000. Lieutenant Governor, average \$78,000; we're proposing \$65,000. Secretary of State, \$84,000; we're proposing \$75,000. State Auditor, \$93,000; we're proposing \$75,000. Attorney General, \$98,000; we're proposing \$90,000. State Treasurer, \$87,000; we're proposing \$75,000. I would have to agree that waiting at least five more years, that possibly, if the body saw fit, we could raise each one slightly more. We're looking at a total of \$125,000 increase. So maybe the body will want to consider that at a later time. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Stuhr, I'm so appreciative of what you just said, and the fact that you stated those averages for us. On Select File I do intend to try to raise these amounts. If I wanted to get even with somebody around here, I wouldn't do it by cutting the salary. That doesn't hurt that individual as much as it hurts the dignity of the office, and we can do better than what is proposed here. But we have to be thankful for small things, since that small thing represents only the start. And by the time this bill is considered on Select File, I believe more of our colleagues will see that the salaries proposed in the bill, as amended by the committee, are not adequate by any standard or any measure. I'm not even looking at the workload. These offices should not be judged on the basis of piecework, if you want to call it that, because there are ups and downs in terms of how much actual work may be done, or may not be done. It is the nature of the office and the responsibility that goes along with, or attaches to that office. These are constitutional officers. There should be more that goes with holding that office than just the honorary title, which doesn't carry much honor. Pay people what they're worth. And you might say they're overpaid, if you don't like the individual. Pay what the office ought to have annexed to it as a salary, and you'll agree that these amounts that we're offering are woefully inadequate. I have to keep reminding myself how low these salaries actually are. But the comments that I've heard this afternoon--well, it's evening now--have been heartening to me. Some of us have been trying for years to