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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 614, 683

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That would be marvelous, thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: And objections to the motion to bracket? Seeing none, so ordered. We will pass over the LB 614A. We now go to Select File, 2005 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk, LB 683 when you get time.

CLERK: LB 683, Mr. President, excuse me. I have no E & Rs. Senator Chambers would move to amend with AM1461. (Legislative Journal page 1388.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on AM1461 to LB 683.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when we were discussing this bill, which relates to increasing the salaries for constitutional officers, there was considerable discussion about the fact that the bill that came out of committee had placed the salary levels too low. I've always felt that way, but I was having difficulty, as we were discussing the bill, arriving at a basis for raising those salaries to a given level. The answer came to me when Senator Stuhr was discussing the bill, and she supports it and she felt the salaries were low. And what she did was to look at the sheet we had been given which compared the salaries for those equivalent offices in the region of which Nebraska is made a part. When she read off the average salaries, I felt there would be the answer. We are not nearly as generous as would be those at the top. We would not be as tightfisted as those at the bottom, and Nebraska brings down the average a great deal. This would be an amount that is not unreasonable. The Governor has already said he'll veto the bill. The Governors always veto these bills, always; and, as Senator Schimek pointed out, we override them. We cannot increase or lower the salary of anybody during that person's term of office. If we pass the bill as it is, it might be an amount which could have been deemed appropriate four years ago...and I think it was too low then...we would not be able to raise those salaries again, the Legislature would not be able to raise those salaries again until four years down the road to deal with the next crop who