

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

May 19, 2005

LB 348

interfering with the proper providing of effective counsel, that system has lost its way and is unworthy to be called a court. The duty of the court is to dispense justice, and what these lazy rascals...they a lot of times don't show up for work on time, they leave early, they are rude--not every one of them--they are crass, they are partial, they are discriminatory, they are insulting, because they can get away with it. By saying that they can save \$10,000 is really an insult. I'm not going to let them balance their budget by crippling the system, so I talked to a World-Herald reporter who got the word to the judges on that court that I'm going to stop any salary increase for the judges. It's a shame on the face of the judiciary to have something like this done, because it goes backwards. Even southern states have been condemned for doing things similar to this. All that lawyers have to sell is their time, so these accused persons will not be given adequate representation. And if the judges felt that they should cut this money off, then they were not going to get a salary increase. That's it. And I made it clear that the hand that controls the purse strings is the hand that controls, and that I will stop them from getting a salary increase. Well, prior to my entry into the fray, various lawyers had spoken against it. Other people outside the system, I guess, had spoken against it. And the judges imposed it anyway. When I made clear what my purpose was, you know what happened? They stopped on a dime. They spun around. They reversed their course, and repealed that stupid enactment. I have to take a hard-nosed hammer approach. There has got to be a hammer. And when it comes to dealing with judges, and other misbehaving public officials, when all that I'm equipped with is a hammer, every one of these problems appears to me as a nail. And the purpose of a hammer is to hit the head of that nail, which I will do. Since that happened, the Chief Justice has taken an interest, and I believe that the problem that arose that time is not going to arise again. These are not things that I should have to do. You all don't do it. It's not...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a part of my job description. So why do I do it? Because I have a higher standard of what I'm required to do. So when you all sit around here on these bills and you get