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SENATOR KOPPLIN: I'm trying to understand this retirement. I just want to clear a couple of things in my mind. The rate of participation for the judges, is that 4 percent? Is that what this says?

SENATOR STUHR: I'm sorry, I don't know where you're, you are getting the figure. Right now, the member contribution is 6 percent for the old members that did not select the new benefit.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Okay, and the teachers' plan, the percentage of contribution is what?

SENATOR STUHR: I have...7.2 was the old figure, and I believe 7.9 is the new, correct for '05 and '06.

SENATOR KOPPLIN: Okay. Okay, my problem is simply...it's a very simple one. If you have a large group of teachers and so on contributing 7 percent and judges contributing considerably less, why don't they just increase their contribution and take care of their problem? That's the problem in my mind. Thank you for the time. I will have to figure this out, as we go on in the debate. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kopplin. On with discussion by Senator Brashear.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I appreciate the discussion, but in the interest of balance, some of us have lived through some of these issues more than once, and have had to look at all sides. Let's go back, and I really wasn't trying...I'm not trying to hang any merit badges on anybody, but by the same token, I'm not going to let innuendo and opinion, I think, reflect badly. Typically, what we ought to remember about retirement plans as a basic piece of law is that you only...it's a contract, and each party is required to do what it has committed to do. And ordinarily, with regard to retirement, you aren't going to change the contribution level, unless you change the benefits. Now that doesn't mean people can't voluntarily do that, but as a part of a negotiation which everybody, or almost everybody here