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an increase, because they chose not to select the new benefit. So also, in comparison to the school retirement--and again, we have expressed our thanks to those school employees and employers who decided to come forth this year and raise their contribution--we are talking about, for '05 and '06, seven one-hundredths of a percent, or seven-tenths, excuse me, seven-tenths of one percent, because we are talking about larger numbers in the school retirement plan. And then for '06 and '07, that will be five-tenths of one percent. So again, we're having all of these major difficulties because, going back to 9-11 and the impact that it had on the economy and the investments, and we have a smoothing out period of five years. So instead of taking all of those losses in one year, which would be almost impossible for any state to absorb, we spread those losses out over five years, and so that's why we are talking, in the next few years, that we will still see that smoothing operation going on, to help overcome those deficits that we had from our investment. So I felt that I needed to clarify that point, and I do agree with Senator Bourne that I think we're looking at getting the systems more in line, not to say that more couldn't be done. But I...so with that, I'll close my remarks and return the rest of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

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

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. And I appreciate Senator Stuhr's remarks. You know, first of all, relative to facts, the survey that Senator Brashear mentioned in his opening did not, indeed, incorporate retirement benefits as compensation as a whole, in his analysis of where our judges rank with other states. Secondly, as I indicated before, a district court judge in the state of Nebraska earns \$110,000 a year. When they're fully vested in the retirement program, the retirement benefit is in excess of \$70,000 a year. Fact: That the school employees had deficiencies in their program, retirement program. The State Patrol had deficiencies in their retirement program, as Senator Stuhr kind of alluded to the reasons behind that, with the economy. The judges have deficiencies in their retirement program, but here's the