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LB 348

to not support this amendment. But I will support the increase in the judges' salary. I would not have supported it if it had remained at their original request. But at this time, I think it is appropriate, looking particularly at the list of salaries that were handed out, looking at some of the other positions that are receiving over \$100,000. So with that, I know it's been kind of a mismatch of comments, but I did want to make those comments in regard to retirement. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. On with discussion of AM1675 to LB 348. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Howard.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, although I cannot support Senator Synowiecki's amendment, there have been times in the past when I've expressed dissatisfaction with the salaries that judges get, the excellent retirement benefits, and have done things, on occasion, to lower salary increases. I have tried to take away \$1 from court costs that go to the judges' retirement. I just did not feel that all things associated with how judges are compensated were done decently and in order. There was an irregularity which applied to them that touched no other group or category of employees. I'm not going to say that Senator Synowiecki is frustrated. I have felt, maybe more strongly than what he feels right now, the very same types of things. I'm glad that he's expressing those views. Even though this session I'm committed, for reasons that I've talked about earlier, to supporting the salary increase for the judges, the increase in court fees, so I'm not going to depart from that. But judges need to hear dissatisfaction. They need to be aware that not everybody gives them a free pass or puts them on a pedestal and considers them to be above everybody else, every other category of employees. Remember, not everybody can be a judge. These positions are highly sought after. And judges will hold on, and maybe even sell their firstborn, if they have one, to keep that position, even after they have misbehaved egregiously. I'm glad that Senator Synowiecki will forthrightly express his points of view. Judges don't run in elections in Nebraska. They're under this so-called Missouri plan, where their name appears on the ballot periodically, and the question is asked, shall so-and-so be