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retained, yes or no? Even judges that I respect and like, I vote no on. I always vote no. There need to be "no" votes. They need to be aware that not everybody is satisfied with them and what they do, that they are not somehow mystical, magical people with a greater degree of humanity, more intelligence than anybody else. However, I think that I am as strongly in favor of, if not more strongly so, an independent, competent, dedicated judiciary. In the same way that I want to uphold the Legislature as an institution, I think the judiciary as an institution needs to be protected. Pursuant to their ethics, judges are not free to respond to public criticism and attacks on an issue pending before them. They have to sit there, swallow it, and take it. Sometimes the criticism is justified. Even when it's not, that's a part of the territory. But politicians and everybody else can respond and counteract.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will, as long as I'm in the Legislature, do everything I can to protect and shield the judiciary. This talk of--what's that term they use--activist judges, is one of the most inane, silly notions I have ever heard. But it takes "Repelicans," fundamentalists, and other fanatics and zealots to come up with these oversimplifications that will not withstand analysis. And the analysis is not given, because people who ought to speak out are frightened into silence. I'll put my light on again. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. On with discussion. Senator Howard, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Synowiecki brought up some very good points, especially regarding state workers and the salaries they're paid. In considering this, it's important that you know the classifications in the state contract have caps. I worked for the Department of Health and Human Services for 34 years. I could have worked for them for 68 years and still in no way have achieved anywhere near the salaries that are outlined on the sheet that Senator Synowiecki gave to us. When I look at the pay, the 3 percent raise for state workers, you look at the