

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

May 24, 2005

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with even that indirect control of salaries. So I looked for another elected body in the state of Nebraska that we might peg to, that would have a growth factor. I have before me the county board listing from NACO, their salary. And I will tell you, this is based on 2003 through 2006. And the salaries were what were set in 2003, but they have all changed, because in fact they have a growth factor. And it varies by county. Some are 4 percent, some are 2.5 percent. It is really up to the county board. But when you look at Madison County, which is actually the highest rate in the state of Nebraska, their Chair currently makes \$32,716.58 a year, and that includes retirement benefits and a county pickup's use. You see that in Douglas County we are compensating \$26,042. That also includes retirement and, I believe, health benefits. You see down the list that in Adams County it's only \$12,729, but they also include retirement and mileage reimbursements. And you see that we have dental, vision, life insurance, disability insurance in some of the counties. So you see, if you look down the list, if you've ever looked at what NACO distributes, that in fact we recognize the value of our county commissioners, and I don't believe that we have actually granted the same respect to the Legislature. So I'm hoping that there will be some discussion today--a very short discussion, I hope, so we can move the bill--but of perhaps where...what direction we want to go in placing a ballot issue before the people of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Senator Schimek, to speak on AM0998.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes. Thank you, Mr. President and members. I do think that it's a good thing to have this discussion, because we all do know that there are many elected officials who are compensated better than we are. But I think it's important to have this discussion, because a little bit later we're going to be having a discussion about another possible amendment to the Stuhr amendment yesterday that will raise that amount back up to \$21,000. And we're going to give that to you as sort of a compromise. But you know, I do think people in Nebraska would support the \$24,000, particularly if the discussion comes out during the campaign about what other elected officials make,