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particularly if discussion comes out during the campaign that this would take us back up to the...what the rate of inflation would be in 2007, plus you have to consider the next two years at least, because you can't change it before 2009 again, and doubtful...it's doubtful that we even do it then. So I don't want us to be weak-kneed about this. I don't think we need to be weak-kneed. I think we can, with justification, go to the public and ask them to do a raise. We have to remember that, last time, we didn't ask for a raise that was double the amount that it had been; it was a raise that was two and a half times what it had been. And people did listen, and they did accept that. I think we have to give people in this state credit for being willing to do what's fair. So this debate on the Redfield amendment is important in putting our salary in a place with all of the others that are out there, too. We haven't even begun to address again today what salaries are in other states for legislators. I just wanted to say, I think this is a good discussion to have. I don't think it's probably going to last too long, Senator Redfield. I think you mentioned that in your remarks. But thank you very much for the opportunity.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Next is...Senator Engel, you're recognized, followed by Senator Erdman and Senator Stuthman. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, this pay raise, I think, is very, very necessary. When I was appointed back in '93, I knew what the pay scale was. But the only thing is, it was a point in my life where I could afford to come down here. All my children were out of college, I didn't have those expenses, so I felt that I could afford to come down here. And I think with the present pay scale we have, it limits it to those who can afford to come down here. Either you're semi-retired, like I, or you had a business where you could operate it and serve down here, or you're someone just starting out who doesn't have a lot of responsibilities to start with, and who still have a desire to serve. And I appreciate everybody having that desire to serve. However, people...first things first. You have to take care of your family, you have to have a roof over your head, you have to be able to feed the family, et cetera, and you can't do it on this \$12,000 a year.