

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

May 24, 2005

LR 12

it's appropriate to ask. But I think we should ask for what we think the public is willing to do. And I think there's a general tendency from the public to be supportive. But I also think they expect us to be reasonable. And I would argue that if you look at some of the salaries that are before us in other offices, the public would not consider some of those reasonable, and they would consider ours to be less than that. And I think we have to find that balance. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Stuthman next. You're recognized.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am the member of the Legislature that has come directly from a county board position. I realize the amount of dollars that the county supervisors and commissioners are getting, what a gold mine they have in comparison to what we're getting down here. I left that position one morning and came down here, going from taking home \$880 a month, plus insurance, to coming down here, with my check was \$218 a month. You know, \$218 a month doesn't pay very much when you're down here all month long. I think people really don't realize, you know, what your local elected officials are getting, your commissioners, your supervisors, what they're earning, and who sets their salary. They set their own salary. Yes, they're reasonable. They take into consideration a lot of things. I don't think it's really out of line. But I'm trying to compare the workload of a county position, which, Senator...one of the senators that just spoke, I think it was Senator Erdman, the total amount of dollars that is paid in the state, \$5.5 million a year for local county commissioners and supervisors. The workload of those individuals, the majority of the board, you know, just has their regular meetings twice a month. Usually a half a day, some a whole day, but not very many of them. When you're chairman of the board, you get paid the same. But that is a greater workload. That is why I'm trying to compare, you know. They set their salary. In my local county, it was \$12,000 a year. I came down here for \$12,000 a year with no benefits, no benefits, no retirement, no nothing. That was it. And the thing that really concerns me is, I would like to see that there are people that could serve in this Legislature that would be, you know,