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the blue-collar worker, the people that are in the trenches working. They can't come down here. I've always said, the only ones that can serve in the Legislature are independent people, semi-retired people, or filthy rich people. That's what I think is what can be down here. And you will see a lot of them here are elderly, independent ones. We do have some very young, attractive ones, also. (Laughter) But I think that's the thing that I'm really trying to convey to the people is, you know, maybe \$24,000 is okay. I think that would be realistic. It would be practical. But I think if we put it out there too much, we won't get anything. I did put in my weekly newspaper articles, you know, to try to get input from my local people. I had several people call and tell me that we shouldn't be doing it for the money. Well, you know, we do have to survive down here, too. We're taken away from our businesses. We're taken away from our jobs that we have to do to support, you know, so that we can be down here. I'm a full-time farmer. You know, my business has to keep going. Yes, it's with the family, and I'm very proud of it. But yet, it does suffer while I'm down here. So I think we need to be very practical, as to what amount we put out there for it, and realistic.

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Twelve thousand dollars, to me, is not a realistic figure. The difference here is, we have to ask the public. If the county board of supervisors would have to put on the ballot that they want to increase their wages \$5,000 or \$1,000, do you think that would ever pass? No, it wouldn't, absolutely not, because most generally you think that what they're doing is not right. But they are really trying to help the communities, and really concerned about your tax dollars. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I would certainly echo the thoughts that Senator Stuthman and Senator Erdman have brought forward so far. I