

acknowledges, in essence, that salary figure, not merit increase, just the basic salary figure we give state employees, and treat these people like we treat everyone else. That is a principle I can accept, and I wonder if it can't replace perhaps the auctioneering that, John, I think quite rightly suggests that we not begin now.

PRESIDENT: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm just not quite sure what I want to support, would have liked to have seen a vote on the amendment that Senator Nelson and I proposed. I think it is very important that we make some substantial adjustments in these salaries. They are way too low. We can compare them anywhere we want to. You just take any list of officers in any field, whether it is business, whether it is education, or whether it is government, and you can only come up with one conclusion, that we must raise these. I think perhaps Senator Landis has a good idea. I don't really know where that is going to take us. I think that would be a good idea to start with. I would raise one question. I know some aides here have raised the question of these steps that we proposed for changing, starting in '87, going to '88 and '89, whether those would be constitutional. I think that some serious question...you don't think there are. Well, I would defer to your judgement because you've been around this longer than I have. But I'm inclined to feel we can work this out. I'm just going to say that I guess I won't support the motion to return it back to committee. I think Senator Landis has some good ideas. I hope we can work on this some more.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUDD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise to support Senator DeCamp's motion to return the bill to committee. I serve on the Government Committee. And I feel we have a pretty good balance on that committee of conservatives and people that would be supporting the increase. I think my principle reason for supporting it, though, is that I see the stack of amendments that I have, all these different proposals from all the different senators on their ideas on what they feel the proper salary should be. I know we are not going to get through this by lunch, voting on the increase in the salaries. But my fear