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(Start of Belt #6)

that they received, and that's why ours was turned down because we were getting an added fringe benefit, the same thing.

SENATOR DUIS: We can't change their salary, I would like to comment just briefly on this proposition, I felt that when we received our checks for our back retirement pay, that we should have been entitled to interest on that money and although I believe the Attorney General or somebody ruled that we weren't entitled to interest, it seems to me that if the body feels that we are that we should possibly introduce a bill to give ourselves a reasonable rate of interest, because for a number of us that money has lain in there idle as far as we are concerned, we never received one dime in interest.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Syas has a very good idea here that we should look into this and as I understand it the legislature can have a retirement program if it wants to, but the constitution says that the legislators shall not receive not more than Forty Eight Hundred dollars a year, now we can have a retirement program within that Forty Eight Hundred dollars a year, and if we did then we would be getting automatically interest on our money, and so it seems to me that whoever it was that sent the checks out to the State Legislators did this quite prematurely especially when the motion was that the amount be returned with interest, and if they couldn't do that then they should have waited until this Legislature was in session before sending. So I feel that we should have an investigation of this sort of thing.

SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Well Mr. President I'd like to address a question to Senator Syas.

SPEAKER: Senator Syas will you yield to another question?

SENATOR BARNETT: This is actually, Senator Syas I suppose a form of a question, but I'm going to request that you do something at the end of it. It's really amazing how all of a sudden we've got some interest about retirement from people when this has been going on with State Employees for years, when they quit or resign, or retire, not retire, but when they quit they would turn back the money that they put in less interest. I think it's great that you have brought this up but I would also like to suggest one thing, while you're requesting this for the State Senators that you also include it for the State Employees of the State of Nebraska, because I think they have put in money and have had it in there for years and then when this happens they get a check without interest, as I understand it also, and I happen to know this is the truth because this is what I received when I resigned from the Fire Marshall's office. I'd like to have this request, if it takes a bill or whatever it takes to include everybody and not just the State Senators, all State employees. Would you be agreeable to that?

SENATOR SYAS: Well I'll answer your question, in the first place, I wasn't aware of the State Employees, this happened to them. I wasn't aware of that part, because I thought in their particular case it was considered that their retirement in this fund was legal and therefore, but your referring to me and I don't remember the bill too well, even though I was here when, your referring they had an option, is that it?

SENATOR BARNETT: That's only if they retire they got an option, I'm talking about somebody who leaves the employment of the State of Nebraska.