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(Start Belt #5)

the theory is that people will think they are actually limiting us to something instead of giving us an increase. Now it seems to me in this most delicate of all matters, at least as regards us, in which there is a potential true conflict, that we should use if anything the most blatant honesty in dealing with it. Instead, what we are using is the old trick of deception that we've tried time and time again, and going on the theory that enough people will be fooled into thinking they're stopping us from getting something that we will end up getting what we want. I think Senator Syas himself and I'm sure he is doing this because he thinks it's necessary and the only way to do it, but I'm sure he himself knows that it is the trick method that is being employed here, and it is the trick method that worked in the past. Now in the last four years, and particularly in the last two years, very extensive studies have been made across this entire country on legislative salaries, and certain things have come up out of these studies, which have already been clearly shown in Nebraska over the past several decades, and these are for instance. First of all the people of Nebraska are not going to allow the legislature to directly control their own salary. They are going to insist that it be constitutionally controlled, or in short controlled by the people. I think the major problem in the past, on getting any salary increase has been the fact that the people have never been fully informed as to what the legislative job is or what it consists of. Now I don't expect, in fact I'm quite certain that if we put my amendment on, and fail to give a complete program of information to the public, as to what the legislative job consists of, and what the reasons for the increase are, I'm quite sure the amendment, the constitutional amendment as amended by my proposed amendment would completely fail. I propose this year an alternative method, a method that has proved successful almost completely in the last two years where it has been tried, and that method is a constitutional commission which would set legislative salaries. A citizen controlled commission. I think in thirteen of twenty states, of thirteen of twenty states that have had salary changes in the last two years, have used this method. Under this method, the legislature has no control whatsoever over their salary, the salary theoretically could go to a dollar, or it could go to whatever this commission deems is fair for this job. If we don't go this way, a constitutional commission to set salaries, then I would hope that just for once, that we would try complete straight forward honesty in setting salaries and explain to the people exactly what we are doing when they vote on that amendment. So frequently we hear the talk of mistrust of the Senate, we hear us criticized for one reason or another, amendments, trick amendments like this are the very reason this happens, and so if we adopt my amendment then we have to do the second thing, and that is to set up a program which informs the public state wide as to what constitutes the job of State Senator, and why they should support the increase. The amendment which you have before you has been passed out, clearly states everything in full that the people should know. It states what the present salary is, it states what the increase is. The existing amendment, or the existing bill without this amendment is once again I repeat, the old dodge of tricking the public. We had two amendments last year, two constitutional amendments which tried the old trick the public trick and they both failed. The one was the one where we say the legislative salary shall be as set by law, the theory being that the people would read the legal language and think they were limiting something. The other was of course, the per diem and in pastures, of course the trick of the legislatures shall exceed not more than. I think it's