

April 17, 1979

LB 398

recommends \$42,500. Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to discuss this issue in terms of what we're attempting to do. I commend the Judiciary Committee for their foresight in terms of trying to produce an adequate study in terms of comparability of salaries. I think at this time it's very tempting on the part of all of us to look at those with salary levels that we consider high professional salaries and attempt to cut them back. I think we're very fortunate in this state, and I think I know almost half of them personally in terms of the judges. I know in my own county there has been an attraction of good young judges to the bench. I know in some of the other counties there has been an attraction of quality judges to the bench. I think it's important that we do this to preserve the judiciary system to see that the compensation is fair and equitable to those people. Sometimes that's not a very popular decision, but I think it's right. I think it's justified. I think the most important part of this state is that we do have a well balanced system of checks and balances between the Executive, the Judiciary and the Legislature. Unfortunately, I think most of you are underpaid according to just a Journal report yesterday. I'm not here enough to be entitled to it, so I can include myself, but most of you are entitled to that. Unfortunately, I can't do anything about that. So we can either bow our necks and say if we can't do it, we're going to punish others, the Executive, and we've done that twice since I've been here. We have raised those salaries. I think the Governor of the state is underpaid for as hard as he works. I think he's severely underpaid. I think that we need to say to the Judiciary, where we've got some control here, let's give you a fair system. We've analyzed it carefully. The recommendations made to that Committee are almost fully in line with what we're doing. I, for one, if we can adopt these amendments, will support the striking of Section 6, which provides for automatic increases, and this issue again can be addressed in terms of salaries depending on the economic situation of the state in 1982. Mr. Chairman, I move my amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now this is the way the list reads, Senator Pirsch, Senator Murphy, Senator Chambers, Senator Schmit, Senator Reutzel. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, my motion is on the Clerk's desk which is to strike Section 6 on page 8, the part of the bill which automatically increases the Executive...