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LB 398

of 533, which is going to substantially increase the judges' pensions.

SENATOR NICHOL: It might be a good idea. I have no objection, Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: I think it would complete the picture that's under consideration.

SENATOR NICHOL: At the moment I was only thinking about Senator Lewis' amendment, which I'll be speaking to when it comes my turn.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, if Senator Stoney, has an answer, like you say if this is just a conjecture on the part of a Committee somewhere, and we are not being measured by any other standards other than whatever this person who made the study is, then I think I'd like that clarified.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, in answer to Senator Murphy's question, the Hay Associates traveled to the state of Nebraska and took into consideration only those positions here in the state within the judicial branch. They also considered those individuals that practice in the private sector and the salaries that they are making, and attempted to establish commensurate with responsibilities and duties, etc., some base for establishing the salaries they are providing us with in their recommendations, Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Did they specifically take into consideration the benefit system, the pension system that accompanies this salary, as compared to those in the private sector who when they retire will have no such income?

SENATOR STONEY: That was also taken into consideration. As a matter of fact, they felt that the retirement system, benefit system, should be reviewed and perhaps subsequently we can do that, but they feel that that was even woefully inadequate in itself. But this was taken into consideration, yes.

SENATOR MURPHY: Are you saying...did I misunderstand you, did you say they thought the pension system might be reduced?

SENATOR STONEY: No, they did not think that it might be reduced. They felt that it should be studied and probably