

one of the three branches of government, but there is a difference between it and the other two. The Constitution allows, I believe, for one more senator without a change in the Constitution, so there could be fifty senators. If you set a wage level, you know the amount that is going to be involved because you know the number of people. When you talk about the executive branch, you know which offices have been created by the Constitution and the Legislature cannot create a Deputy Lieutenant Governor or diversify that office. So when you come to the judges, and more judges can be created by law, then the mere setting of a salary level this year of the Legislature will not necessarily tell you what the salary of judges will be from now on because should new judgeships be created, those judges will have to be paid at the level of those existing at the category wherein they are created. Now, on the salary determination, there was an attempt by this group to determine how much lawyers in the private sector, Senator Murphy, earn. I felt that the estimate was way high. There was no attempt to talk to the lawyers themselves and make a study or canvas of how much lawyers actually make in Nebraska, but rather they're looking at a national publication which did not deal with Nebraska as an entity or as such, and they, I guess, extrapolated from that national report or regional report and determined an amount of, I think, in excess of \$40,000 a year. Isn't that about it that the average lawyer was making in Nebraska, and I think that is way high. So my feeling was that the 40 plus thousand dollars, which was used by Hays to establish these salary levels was high. So if that was the basis for the salary levels, then the salary levels are high, but I'm wondering if that should be the prime determinate. I know that in Nebraska there is a tendency to travel cheap. The judiciary performs a very important function in society, and I think you determine in a capitalist society the value of a thing by the dollar amount you place on it. So if the judges are not paid much, if there is not a decent salary attached to the office, the office is considered relatively unimportant.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It is clear that the citizens don't attach importance and significance to the legislators, because some of these judges, why the amount that they'll get you'll think they believe they are Congress people. The huge amount...they will get an increase in some instances almost double the amount that we make per year as legislators. The only reason I'm making these remarks