

appropriations bills which are calling for state employee increases anywhere from 7% for some classes of employees to 4% as I understand for other classes, so I think we have a conflict there and when we are talking about state employees who are keeping the snow off the highways, who are repairing the highways, the bridges, who are doing the clerical work in this capitol, the support system for the Legislature, for the judicial branch, for the executive branch, I think when we are talking about those people and we are talking in terms of a 7% increase or a 4% increase, then we look at some of the salaries in some cases, over 30% increase for some categories of judges in this bill and I think there is a big difference. I think if we raise these salaries up and then put in the escalator clause, we are putting ourselves in a position which is going to be not easily defended. So I would move the adoption of that amendment which simply strikes Section 6, the escalator clause from the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers and then Senator Lewis and then Senator Stoney. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, a point of clarification from the Clerk. Mr. Clerk, the committee amendments were not adopted. Is that correct? So we have the bill as it was originally introduced?

CLERK: Yes, sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to say something that might shock you and again it may not. All I am going to do is state a fact of life. There is elitism in the society and the judiciary is composed of an elitist group. They have a peculiar type of training, a peculiar outlook on life but they are not all peculiar people although sometimes they do peculiar things. So there is not going to be any way that the judges can be discussed in the same terms as other mere mortals. Now certainly they get hungry. They get indigestion and when they are in that state of mind, if you happen to appear before one of them you will certainly suffer for whatever the judge is suffering from. When we talk about compensating these people, I say, what is going to have to be decided is whether or not the judiciary is going to be set aside in terms of the money that it receives, set aside from other governmental bodies and the judges set aside from other governmental functionaries. The judges are to be independent but when their salary is controlled