

are mandating for us to pay more money, yet you are putting a lid on us. Where are we going to get that money? And it is just going to leapfrog to the other departments of our office. So by keeping it down I think maybe we can afford this. I do think Chambers has a very good bill but I am real concerned about mandating this high salary in the future so I am going to support the Vickers amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Barrett, do you wish to speak to the Vickers amendment?

SENATOR BARRETT: Yes, Mr. President. I would rise in support of the Vickers amendment. I think we are in agreement that 628 is an excellent piece of legislation and it is. The continuing education for sheriffs, the sheriff certification course, the increase in jailer's fees, the provisions for quarters and adequate equipment for preparation and serving of meals. There is great unanimity within this body. The only point seems to be the matter of salaries. I would simply remind the body that the Vickers amendment reduces the salaries approximately \$3,000 per classification and that this is a minimum annual salary. This does not suggest in anyway that counties cannot pay more. This is a minimum. So I totally support the Vickers amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We will now vote on the Vickers amendment. As per the agenda, the discussion was to go forty-five minutes. We have reached that time. So those in favor, Senator Vickers, do you wish to close?

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, I will be very brief. First of all, I am in agreement with Senator Chambers and the intent of LB 628 and I think that needs to be restated. I am also in agreement that the salaries of the sheriffs of the State of Nebraska are too low but my problem is that the taxes in the State of Nebraska, and particularly property taxes, are too high. So it just seems to me that this is, what I am offering is an amendment that would strike a middle ground to try to satisfy both sides of this issue. I would simply point out to this body that these are minimums. These are minimums. We are not saying that the local county elected officials cannot set that salary higher. We are not saying that the sheriffs have to be paid at these figures. If the local area wants to pay them more, they certainly can. If we are really serious about telling the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska that we are concerned and that we are, in fact, trying to be austere in these times of rising taxes, then I would hope that this amendment would be approved by the