

their responsibility in setting adequate salaries to insure that there is not such a high turnover and I think if this were passed, it would eliminate that stumbling block. The county boards could no longer, in certain counties, could no longer hide behind the Constitution and say we cannot give you a raise and you are just going to serve at the present salary that you were elected for for four years and if you don't like it you can quit. Well this has caused some law enforcement problems and I think if we can pass this bill, it goes on the ballot and if people will pass it, it is going to remove that stumbling block from those particular counties. Now this applies to a number of constitutional officers and we had a bill in last year which was killed which would have applied to the Clerk of the Supreme Court. Now he is under a six year term, but I think when we are talking in terms of 13% and 15% inflation rates that it is unrealistic to ask someone to come in and serve for four or six years during the term of office and not receive any sort of increase in compensation. Everyone in the private sector is demanding some sort of compensation and also at the state level but this would remove that stumbling block. Counties could no longer hide behind this and I think it is a provision which should be deleted from the Constitution and I would urge that the body advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion? The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, I guess I need a little bit more information. Senator Reutzel, would you yield? What you are saying here is if this would pass, then the salaries of elected officials could be adjusted during that four year period they are in office. Is that what it says? Well, I know that it is an extreme handicap for those officials that run for office because they have to accept a salary about five years ahead of when they are going to retire from that particular four year period, but who would set these salaries then?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Well, Senator Kahle, the present system would apply. If it is a county board setting a salary, it would still be that county board. This would only allow an adjustment, a yearly adjustment or two years, whatever that particular body decides should be a time period for adjustments.

SENATOR KAHLE: But this would be a constitutional amendment. When would it be on the ballot? November, if it passed?