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ever. This bill is a step towards that consistency in terms of calculation of benefits. It takes the final four years...the Patrol takes the final three years, in determining the salary basis for that. Now the reason this change is being made is the impact of inflation on salaries. Senator Murphy cites the example of someone who used to get at one time maybe \$12,000, and now is at a much higher salary due to cost of living increases. The intent of this bill is to rather than have to average in low salaries at the start of their career that you talk about the salary that at the time the person retired, within the vicinity of when that person retired we felt that person was worth and that this Legislature that has been establishing these judges' salary. That is why the change from career average to final average salary. We have done this with other professions. I think it is legitimate to do that with judges. Now the question that Senator Lewis is offering is, is there a certain point after a certain number of years of service that we should say to a judge or to a patrolman or to a teacher, this is the percentage the maximum percentage of those final years of service we think we can support, and that is the issue now before us. Should it be 60 percent, 66 percent, 72 percent? That is the issue. Right now in the current law there is no limitation on the percentage for the final...for the determination based on the salary for future judges. There is no limit. Senator Murphy... or Senator Lewis' amendment creates one for the first time at 66½ percent for the future judges. Now there has been one at 60 percent for the original judges. His compromise with Senator Goodrich is to raise that also to 66½ percent. So, in effect, we are creating a cap where there has never been one. We are putting a limit on the percentage of final salary that the judges can get with Lewis' amendment...Senator Lewis' amendment, and I would support it.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Lewis, can you answer a question for me?

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lewis, will you answer?

SENATOR LEWIS: I will.

SENATOR NEWELL: I remember not more than a week ago you

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