

be and that comes out to \$17,500 a year just to meet and listen to these complaints? There is definitely something wrong if we've got that kind of money to throw around. Now the way we could offset that \$35,000 would be to take two of the licensed real estate agents off the Commission and then it would be balanced. You'd have two licensed realtors and two lay people and you'd still have that third vote of the Secretary of State. Senator Barrett said that a layman wouldn't have the necessary knowledge. Senator Chambers covered that pretty good, but, Senators, let me ask you something. When you were elected a senator and you came down here, just how much technical knowledge did you have about the 714 bills we're considering this year and yet you sit here and you vote day after day and I vote day after day on bills that are going to change people in Nebraska's lives maybe for the next hundred years. What were our qualifications? But somehow, as we listen to the testimony, we get the point and we understand and we use our native intelligence and common sense and we vote. We vote on bills that concern medical science. Now this is what two lay people would do on the Real Estate Commission. They would do exactly as you and I. They would listen to both sides. They would ask questions and then they would make their decision the same as you and I. So I don't think that holds much water to say, just because they're not a licensed real estate agent they're not going to make good judges, any more than the fact that Bill Barrett has never been a doctor, he ought not be able to vote on anything concerning doctors in this Legislature. Senator Barrett has the intelligence to listen to the debate and if there is anything he doesn't understand, I'm sure that he is man enough to stand up and say, would you explain that medical term, and I think lay people on the Real Estate Commission would do the same thing. And as I say, I had no idea that the Real Estate Commission was paying these people \$17,500 a year to meet maybe once a month, I don't know, and listen to these complaints. But we can offset that cost by making it fair and even. Take two of the realtors off and put two laymen on or one more layman so that there is a balance instead of having it balanced in favor of the realtors and let the laymen have a chance. I would urge your vote for this amendment which is for the protection of the people and to see that the people do get a fair hearing. Thank you, Senators.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the adoption of the Higgins