

less than, is everybody listening, everybody listen to this, less than \$50 a month is what some of these people are receiving. Another 192 people received \$50 to \$100 a month. At the same time social security did not fill the financial gap. And even when the social security benefits are considered, the combined retirement benefit does not reach the generally accepted poverty level of \$4,000 a year. Now this has a very unique history because they were caught in the Depression at a period of time when the salaries were lowered for state employees as opposed to a regular percentage increase that we experience right now. In 1932, for instance, University of Nebraska-Lincoln professors had a salary cut of 20 percent. Because of the deepening depression the UN-L professors took another 20 percent cut in salary. The University-Lincoln employees did not catch up to their old salary levels until 1948. At the current time over a half of the University and Medical Center employees, who have currently received most of all of their retirement benefits under what is known as the pre-1961 plan, are over 75 years old. There are 888 old University employees in 1985 and their numbers will decrease. It is a certainty that their numbers will decrease because as they get older they will die and their problems will go away as far as our consideration of the benefits that they ought to receive from the State of Nebraska. Again I reiterate it is big money. It is a half a million dollars is the estimated cost. We are going to see a diminution of the numbers as we go along. We have taken out the cost of living increase to accommodate some of the concerns that were in the Retirement Committee as setting a precedent for future programs and plans. So, Mr. President, I move the advancement of LE 290. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Nichol, do you wish the floor?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd just like to ask Senator Harris a question or two.

SENATOR HARRIS: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, you are taking the University of Nebraska only, right?

SENATOR HARRIS: Omaha and Medical Center, it is the University system.