

fighting over 2 percent and 3 percent for them. We are in a position, right now, in the State of Nebraska where the Governor is scrambling around trying to get enough money to keep the state going. We are looking at Commonwealth and possible lawsuits and millions of dollars. I have no objection to raising salaries of constitutional officers. They deserve a salary increase the same as any other state employee. They probably don't deserve it as much as we do since we work so much harder. But I just question...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...how do you justify, to the people of the State of Nebraska when private enterprise gives you a 5, or 6, or 7 percent increase, that we make these kind of leaps? I'm sure all of you will remember in 1981 I led the charge against raising the Governor's salary. Everybody thought it was because I was a Democrat and he was a Republican. But I'll say the same thing about my friend, Bob Kerrey. When you consider the mansion he is given free, the automobile, the food allowance, etc., etc., etc., I think the Governor is receiving close to \$100,000 already when you take in all the extra freebies or benefits. I just think, Senators, that I'd have a hard time going home and telling my constituents that I voted for a 20 percent and 30 percent increases just in this first year. If we are going to do this for constitutional officers, we better not talk about public employees getting 1 percent or 2 percent.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, did you wish to speak on the amendment? Okay.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I want to tell you what the constitutional officers' salaries would be today had they received the same salary adjustment each year that has been passed for state employees, generally. Remember, it was not changed since 1979, other than the Public Service Commission. In the case of the Governor, on July 1 of 1985, based on the Governor's budget, and the actual history before this, salary would have been \$60,976. In the case of the other constitutional officers who are currently at \$32,000, had they received the same adjustment on an annual