

adjusted so as to provide for eventualities that could possibly exist. In other words there could be...technically there could be a windfall under this particular bill. Furthermore, under this particular proposition the 1 percent increase is compounded.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't have an actuary at my disposal, so I'm not sure what the compounding of the 1 percent means in terms of dollar amounts, or what it would mean in terms of dollar amounts if this were applied to our whole system, but that is a particular portion of this particular provision that I also have some concern about. With that, Mr. Speaker, I think I'll stop at this particular point in time and ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Goodrich, before I recognize you, I'd like to announce, on behalf of Senator Carsten, that he has a friend under the south balcony, as a guest today Mr. Bruce Pratt from Elmwood. If you'll stand, Mr. Pratt, we'd like to welcome you to the Legislature. Also Senator Hartnett has, as his guests, Bob Spagnola of Denver, accompanied by his daughter, Cindy. We are glad to have you here watching the Nebraska Legislature. Welcome. The Chair recognizes Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to ask you not to adopt the Beutler amendment. This is no surprise to Chris. He would fully expect me to do this, as I fully expected him to make the motion. He told me ahead of time he was going to make the motion to do this, to strike the 1 percent clause. What it really boils down to is you've got a choice to make. If you adopt...or leave the bill just the way it is, let's take that side first, then the feature in it says that the amount that the retiree gets shall be adjusted by 1 percent per year. This, in essence, would help the retirees keep up with the increasing costs of medical care. It would slow down the times when they have to come back to ask this Legislature for a one-time shot increase in their retirement benefits. This one-time, 1 percent per year adjustment is nowhere near the cost of living. The only reference...the only reason rather for referring to a "cost of living" is twofold, one of which is that it is that way in the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. You have to justify