

in a position of having to chide us about traveling so cheap. I'm surprised Senator Hannibal would talk about salary levels when we are the most notoriously underpaid group as a whole of anybody in this state. We don't even make minimum wage. Some of us put in so many hours that if it boiled down to \$2.00 an hour that would be surprising and we work very, very hard. Senator Beutler mentioned the Judiciary Committee hearing room. I have labored in that dismal place, not just because of the junk legislation we have dumped on us, but it's just depressing to go in there, the shape of the room, the condition of the carpet Senator Beutler has already mentioned, big square posts in the middle of the floor. Some time you'll be speaking and you'll see people trying to peer around the posts to see who is speaking to find out what is going on and the Government Committee of which I'm a member also meets there. They have tables that are made of ticky-tacky. They try to put them in the shape roughly of a square I think and some parts don't fit too well so if you sit down and slide your chair under the table and move back, you pull a section of the table with you. This is the Nebraska Legislature dealing with some of the most important issues confronting society. We might even be dealing with a bill that means a great deal to me, abolition of the death penalty, and if I pull my chair away and pull part of the table away, despite the seriousness of the issue people might smile, they might laugh. The serious mood is broken. Sometimes a little levity helps. At other times it's totally undesirable. If we are going to treat ourselves in such a shabby fashion, we should not be surprised to see other people take cheap shots. One thing I keep mentioning, and probably I shouldn't, was the unfortunate remark in the World Herald about the "Carnival of the Animals" and the World Herald did not punctuate the title of that poem correctly and there was some justifiable hostility about that remark being made. But if you put that in the context of how we treat the Legislature in terms of office space, staffing, equipment and other things that we can provide for ourselves perhaps those kind of remarks come readily to mind and suggest themselves to speakers. If the Legislature deals with itself as a perennial joke, everybody else will too.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This amount of money is not excessive. I don't know where we could get a greater value from the