

figure. For the other constitutional officers their salary adjustment, applying the same percentage that has in fact occurred for state employees generally, would be in excess of the proposed figure, to take effect in January of 1987. The committee amendment, as adopted, does adjust those salaries on a 5 percent incremental basis throughout the term of the office for those 4 years. I believe the salary level proposed is appropriate and I would urge that the bill not be further amended but advanced as the committee recommended it.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. In 1981, or 82, my second year here, we had a bill then to increase the governor and the constitutional officer's salaries. As you all recall, I was very vocal about it at that time, being opposed to it because Governor Thone said this state was having hard times and the tough budget, and we should all tighten our belts. There isn't anybody in the State of Nebraska today that does not realize we are in just as dire straits today, and we are cutting the budget, and cutting the budget, and cutting the budget. I am diametrically opposed. I am opposed in every way to increasing the salaries of constitutional officers and the governor. As I spoke most about the governor's salary the last time, I will address that again this time. Presently the governor receives \$40,000 a year in salary. But the governor also is given a free mansion to live in and free utilities, and a food bill...or food...you might say food stamps since he has a food allowance in the thousands. The governor is furnished with a car. I submit to you that \$40,000 is not a true figure of what the governor is paid. While I, myself, am running for governor, I can tell you this, I would be living a great deal higher at \$40,000 a years salary if elected governor and it would be a tremendous increase to my husband and I to have no house payments, no utility payments, not have to pay for the insurance on our car, not have to pay for the utilities on our house, none of the expenses that the persons and people in Nebraska have to meet every day. As for the constitutional officers, in comparing their salaries to the state employees, state employees are here 40 hours a week to work. Anybody that has been reading the news media, watching television, or reading the newspapers for the last few months realizes that constitutional officers have not been tied to their offices