

discount is too great and for that reason I support the amended version of 43 and urge you to do the like.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Withem, please, then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, this is an easy one to give speeches on. It's an easy one to oppose. I don't think you can point to any elected official in the history of the United States that has lost an election by voting to keep salaries down. It is very politically expedient to stand up and give speeches against spending taxpayers' money to raise salaries of public officials. It is also very tempting for those of us in this body to oppose any salary increases because we are, to my understanding, the one group in the state that cannot have our salaries increased without a vote of the people. We've not had our salaries increased. We continue to be at the \$4,800 that our Constitution mandates. This is a good way for us to stand up and appear to be conservative, appear to be managing the public's money correctly. For all of these reasons it is very easy to push a red button on this bill, but I would submit it is the wrong thing. One thing I think you've got to keep in mind that today is probably the last chance we're going to get to adjust the salaries of these people for four years. We are not going to be able to change this if this bill does not advance today, is killed today. The chance is gone for four years, into 1991 before we'll be able to adjust the salaries of any of these constitutional officers, not just the Governor, but any of them. For that reason I think you ought to take a good serious look at LB 43 and support its advancement. If you have problems with some of the specifics, let's debate out the amendments on Select File, but let's get the bill moving today. Keep in mind one of our responsibilities in this position is to serve as a board of directors for the state. It is our job to make sure that we have situations where we attract the highest quality people within the state to serve in these offices, not just these elected offices, but all offices. It is true that people should not come into government with prospects of getting rich. They should not come into government with the prospects necessarily of bettering themselves over what they can do in the private field. This should be public service. We use that phrase quite frequently talking about serving the public, being a public servant and, yes, I think Senator Higgins and others