

being important activities for our society. Yes, it is true that in this state we provide a large amount of compensation to the University of Nebraska Athletic Director, Bob Devaney, and to the University of Nebraska football coach, Tom Osborne, and we do that in our society, we do that in this state because we value those activities. Because of that and because of that, I believe it is important for we as a Legislature to set reasonable compensation for our public officeholders because we as a Legislature know the value to this society of a governor, a lieutenant governor, a secretary of state, a state treasurer, a public auditor and public service commissioners and we may have to be the bellwether in terms of setting that kind of a salary level for those important individuals in our society. But if we decline to set responsible pay for those individuals then we simply contribute in our own way to a public perception that once, that once from time to time, to heap contempt and calumny upon public officeholders. And you and I do know by virtue of our being here and you and I do know by virtue of our being public officeholders in our own right, that neither contempt nor calumny should be inflicted upon public officeholders simply because they are public officeholders. So I think it is important to our own state and to our own society that we pay reasonable compensation to the public servants that hold the highest jobs so to speak in our state. And for that reason I am prepared to support LB 43.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hall, please, then Senator Smith.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I rise to support LB 43. I look at it from the standpoint that Senator Johnson talked about without saying it. Basically it boils down to that it is our job. We are required to do this. You may argue with the amount or the proportion of the increase, but it is our job as legislators to increase those salaries that are listed in LB 43. I would offer to those who are opposed to the amounts to submit amendments to reduce those. I don't think that it is something we need to argue here on General File. You're either for it or against it and I would urge you to push the bill forward at this time, but again I would say that it is something that our statutes require us to do as a legislative body. We are appointed by or elected by the people that we represent and given the authority and the power by them to do this. You talk about whether or not the salaries are just, I would submit to you that a principal in a high school in the City