

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this bill as amended. I feel that it is still too high, however, I would support a modest increase. But when farmers are going broke, when they are being foreclosed on, small businessmen are being foreclosed on in these small towns, this is not the time to double some of these salaries. I think we have to take a long, hard look at it. We could put this money to work in a lot better places. We know that this coming year that we're going to be short. I don't know how much yet, but receipts are below projections and I don't see things getting better for a little while yet and so I would like to urge you members of this Legislature to take it easy on this. It seems like the salary of the Governor doesn't affect the number of candidates that we have running for this office. As of this date I believe we have seven or eight or maybe it's more than that now candidates running for this office and they know what the salary is of the position in the northeast corner of this Capitol. Also we have, it seems like, plenty of candidates for the other offices. I'd say to you that being Governor of this state certainly is a prestigious job. I don't think that Governor Kerrey is leaving the office because his salary isn't large enough. And so I think we need to take a long, hard look. I'm going to oppose this bill at this time, but if it does happen to go over there, well I'll have some amendments to reduce the amount on Select File.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator DeCamp, I don't believe there are enough members on the floor to cease debate. Okay, debate has ceased. Would you like to close, Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a year ago when the bill came up, I recall, I went...I don't recall exact words, that I went through the