

the salaries, I am asking you today to approve a 25 percent increase for the Governor, a 20 percent increase for the others, and I feel that these are good increases. If economic times improve, then we can increase these salaries in 1991. And besides the base salaries that these officials like the Governor and the Treasurer and the Lieutenant Governor are receiving, they are also receiving many fringe benefits and let me point out just a few of these to you. They get good benefits on their life and health insurance. They have retirement benefits. They have life insurance. In the case of the Governor, he has a home and he has an automobile. Some of you said several weeks ago when we were debating the bill and adopting the amendment, the committee amendment, is that if we don't increase salaries substantially, then we get poor candidates. Well, I submit to you this morning that I feel that we have good candidates. We certainly have good candidates for the office of the Governor. I believe we have four on the Democrat side and four or five on the Republican side. In the case of the Lieutenant Governor, we have got the President. We also have others that are among us. And so we have plenty of candidates and we have plenty of good candidates. In talking to my colleagues here, I feel that if this amendment is not adopted, well, then there will be a motion to kill the bill. And so with this in mind, I move for the adoption of my amendment that you can find on page 476 of the Journal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud. The speaking order after Senator Abboud is Senator Haberman, Landis, Warner and Smith. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I am going to rise in support of Senator Elroy Hefner's amendment. I was down looking by the Clerk's desk to see if there were any other amendments, any other compromising amendments which this body might be able to act on. I see Senator Nelson raised her hand. Maybe there will be more forthcoming. At this time, the increases that Senator Hefner is proposing with his amendment are still a substantial increase in consideration of the economic times that we are going through. I know most of us are aware of the budget crunch that is going to be coming up in the near future, mid-March, when we are going to have to be deciding some crucial decisions on whether to increase taxes, whether to expand our tax base, or whether to cut state services further. It