

before us.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow senators, I can only repeat the same kinds of arguments that you have heard before. I don't believe that this is a time that we should send a message about increasing administrative level salaries at a time when taxpayers are really in a crunch. Now, Senator Abboud spoke to the fact that, you know, that we may be on the verge of a crunch. We are in a crunch, Senator Abboud, in our part of the State of Nebraska. We are feeling it out there and those people out there have overwhelmingly sent the message to me, at least, that they are not in favor of this kind of increase for our administrative level officers. Well, I can understand and agree with the need to attract quality and qualified people. I can't, in good conscience, support this increase at a time when we are being asked to cut or eliminate necessary programs of service for people that are needed services and at a time, at the same time, as we are looking, for instance, at other state employees' salaries and their benefits and considering doing some things to combine the kind of fringe benefits that they have built up over time and which they have relied upon and which in good faith they thought was a part of the package that they were getting as their employment. I ask you to support Senator Hefner's amendment, which I think itself is a substantial increase, given the economy of the times. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Morehead. Senator Nelson is next. Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, could I ask Senator Warner some questions? Senator Warner, in your amendment that you have following this, is it the target figure and increase remain the same as presented the last time except just a different phase in?

SENATOR WARNER: The amendment would drop the fourth year of adjustment so that it delays the first year by one year. The first adjustment would be January 1, 1988 instead of January 1, 1987.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: All right, so the delay is on the first year. Then the...in the end...