

eliminated and has consistently said for 30 years that we ought not to have a Lieutenant Governor and a number of states do not have a Lieutenant Governor. I tend not to agree with that. I think probably it is important to have a Lieutenant Governor, but the functions of that office are not perhaps as great as some people might imagine. And so that leaves us with the Public Service Commission. I don't know enough about what they do and so I don't have a strong feeling about. But, clearly, the work that they do would not nearly be as important or have as great an impact as what we do here in the Legislature, yet their salary is already six times, I believe, or so what we get paid. So you have to raise questions about how that matches up. My point is that Senator Rupp raises a good point that some of these constitutional offices ought not maybe even to exist let alone to have salary increases. Ultimately, if this amendment doesn't pass, I will probably still be favoring Senator Warner's bill. I think it is important to raise the Governor's salary. It is important to raise the Attorney General's salary, in particular. Those two are very much underfunded. They are much less than they ought to be and that is the sore point I think most of us recognize. But for these other offices, I have some real doubts and I hope the history of those offices would raise you to have doubts as well.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Eret.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. President and members, after hearing the debate by Senator Wesely, I probably will support Senator Rupp's amendment just to reduce some of these increases. However, ultimately I probably will not be supporting the increases that I see on my desk here in all of the trading formulas that are being put out. I think you have probably seen my best vote on the last amendment, Senator Heffner's amendment, for a 25 percent increase, and that is probably where I will stop on this trading game. Since the last vote, I have been resoundingly reprimanded, I feel, by the people in my district about the type of raises we are talking about here in the economic times and stress that are before the people. So I think from this point on I will not be supporting the increases. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, I