

am sure that all of you have been following this very closely, haven't you? And you have your little worksheets out there on your desk and you are trying to figure out just what you as an employer would pay this individual or these individuals according to the responsibility, as Senator Rupp has pointed out, the oversight that comes either with working with employees or the tax dollars, so we are, in fact, having to make a decision in light of what we are hearing from our constituents and what we feel personally. I like Senator Rupp's amendment. Now, I personally like one that I am going to offer later a little better which would give the Governor and the Attorney General a 10 percent increase per year, which would take the Governor not to \$80,000 but would, in fact, take it to 58,500, and would take all of the officers, including the Lieutenant Governor and the State Treasurer and the Public Service Commissioners, up 5 percent. At this time I will probably support Senator Rupp's amendment because I think it has been done very thoughtfully, but if there are not enough votes, then I would certainly ask that you consider supporting my amendment which will follow Senator Warner's amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the Rupp amendment? Senator Rupp, you may close.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. President and colleagues, this has become a point of confusion, I think, on what I propose to do and I don't...haven't versed myself as to where the bill reads right now and where it stands with the committee amendments we adopted, and so forth. Simply what this amendment would propose to do is there would, in essence, be no pay raise commensurate with all these others for Public Service Commissioners, Lieutenant Governor and Treasurer. The other four, I have no objection to the raises that we will hammer out in the auction sale that will proceed here after this amendment. But I am simply trying to leave those three positions intact as they are either now, as they are being paid now or as the bill is before us says, but it would strike the raises in the salary for those three positions. And, again, simply in an effort to fine tune this a bit, and I know there will be many amendments forthcoming, Senator Wesely just told me that he will address the Auditor issue with another amendment so it is becoming a bit confusing. But for this point I would just like to make the point that I think these three positions should remain as they are.