

retirement of state employees and eventually many other types of employees for the benefit of the people of the State of Nebraska and certainly, possibly, at a cost savings. As Senator Wesely mentioned, we have another bill in committee that deals beyond this particular point which we might have out here on the floor and it simply gives the public bodies additional options in dealing with employees who are thinking about retiring. So I strongly support the reinsertion of this particular phase of the retirement systems as it develops for the State of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR BARRETT: Before calling on the next speaker, Senator Vard Johnson, the Chair wishes to recognize two guests of Senator Scofield under the north balcony, Reynold and Mary Louise Brown, national lead known artists from Whitney, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this amendment offered by Senator Wesely costs the state no money. This amendment offered by Senator Wesely, however, does set an early retirement date for state employees at age 55. The current early retirement age, as I understand it, today is age 60. So now we go down to age 55. We say in effect that when a person reaches age 55 they then have the right to choose to leave their work force if they want to and to begin to receive a benefit, even though the benefit itself will be actuarially reduced. So under those circumstances it would be a modest benefit. We have a society where we have an awful lot of young people who are trying to move into the work force and what they sometimes find as they try to move into the work force is that a lot of jobs that they could take are now being held by older members in society who in effect are double dipping and the double dipper, of course, is the person who is chosen who has been able to retire at age 55 or in some instances at age 50, but he hasn't retired or she hasn't retired for the purpose of taking the remainder of life easy. He or she is retired for the purpose of taking another job, for the purpose of taking another job. And that person who is retired for the purpose of taking another job now begins to receive a pension benefit from the first job, takes the new job and, in effect, some younger worker who is trying to get a start in life is aced out of a job