

subdivisions then. It seems to me that what is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. If we don't want to raise the taxes to pay for our employees increases in salary, that may be mandated to us, and as Senator Schmit pointed out it could go the other way, it could go the other way, I think the purpose in creating the Commission of Industrial Relations was two-fold. First of all it was to remove from the political process some of the disagreement when it came right down to trying to arbitrate salaries. It was to remove it to a third party. That third party was to look at whether or not it was in line with other entities, other like entities in their salary negotiations. I think that that third party would also take into consideration the economy, and would take into consideration what is happening. So it is possible, it seems to me, it could actually start going the other direction. Some of us have made that argument for a number of years that that could be possible in terms of political subdivisions. If that is possible, it is probably possible at the state level as well. The other thing the Commission of Industrial Relations does, and I don't know how many of you have really sat down and gone through the statutes, I've got it right in front of me, is that it prohibits the right to strike. We've got a situation in this state where we don't have strikes by any of our political...or our public employees. They don't have that right because we gave them, instead, the Commission of Industrial Relations. Now it seems to me that this Legislature is in the process of making the determination whether or not that is a good idea, whether or not it is a good idea to apply that right to not strike and give them, instead, an arbitration, or to take the arbitration right away. When we are saying that are we saying that instead we want to have the right to strike? I hope not, but maybe that is what we're saying.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: I think we ought to think long and hard about it. Finally, it has been mentioned about the Supreme Court's decision. It certainly didn't come as any surprise to me, and it shouldn't have to anybody else that actually read the bill. It says right here, the definition of employer, and I quote out of the statute, "Employer shall mean the State of Nebraska or any other political governmental subdivision of the State of Nebraska." I thought that was pretty clear. We've always fallen unuer