

you have to. Now, if we are going to say for one year we've got an economic problem, we've not figured out how to solve it yet at this level, so we're going to prohibit any employee from going to the Commission of Industrial Relations that we fully fund, then it seems only right and fair that we say the same thing to all political...or all public employees, all political subdivisions and right now have that Commission of Industrial Relations kind of hanging over those policy-makers heads. Now, I think that we had ought to say and ought to recognize the fact that our economic problems are not just at our level, but are across the state. So the amendment that I offer includes all...not only the scale of wages or salaries for employees of the Board of Regents, the University of Nebraska, and the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska state colleges, but it also includes "and all other political subdivisions as defined in subsection (4) of 48-801." In other words, what I am attempting to say is that we've got some economic problems right now and that we ought not allow the Commission of Industrial Relations to raise salary levels for anybody across this state because of that economic problem. Now, I know that I think we've done an admirable job, at the state level, in holding down the cost of government. And I know that I'm not the only one that has been frustrated when we've given our state employees a 3 percent raise, or a 4 percent raise and then turn around and see a 7, or 8, or 9, or 10 percent raise given by a local political subdivision. But we've got to recognize that in many cases that 7, 8, 9, 10 percent raise was given because of the concern of that local political subdivision that if they didn't get it, it was going to be granted to them, so that they had to do it, by the Court of Industrial Relations anyhow. Now, we recognize that the Court of Industrial Relations was created so that we would have a mechanism to arbitrate those differences and I think that is a good idea. But, by the same token, if we are not going to arbitrate those differences for one year, because of the economic situations here, then it seems to me we ought not to...for those...we ought not force those political subdivisions to face that same thing. So I would ask for the adoption of this amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the amendment. Senator Vickers, you, obviously, have