

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch, I guess, is next. Senator Pirsch. We will pass over Senator... Senator Pirsch is not here at the moment. We will pass over her and let Senator Hefner have the floor.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I am going to oppose this and let me first tell you that I am not against a senators' retirement plan but I think this is the wrong way to do it. What we are doing here, we are going to put a lot of pressure on the State Supreme Court, and you may say, what kind of pressure? Well, this legislative body sets the salaries of the judges, and this is one way which it would put a lot of pressure on. But when I read the Constitution of Nebraska, I just can't see where it says in there that a legislator should receive a retirement, and I believe if our forefathers or whenever this Constitution was amended, if they would have wanted us to receive a retirement, they would have put the word "retirement" in the Constitution. But let me read this again for you. Senator Chambers read it to you earlier. "Each member of the Legislature shall receive a salary of not to exceed four hundred dollars per month during the term of his office. In addition to his salary, each member shall receive an amount equal to his actual expenses in traveling by the most usual route once to and returning from each regular or special session of the Legislature. Members of the Legislature shall receive no pay nor perquisites other than said salary and expenses, and employees of the Legislature shall receive no compensation other than their salary or per diem." So I think the proper way to do this would be to introduce a resolution, a constitutional amendment, hold a public hearing, and then debate the issue on the floor, pass it, put it up to a vote of the people, and decide it this way. I just think that this is the wrong way to do it especially when we only have I believe 10 days left, 10 days in this Legislature, and here we are doing something like this. And so I am going to oppose it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Pirsch, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Mr. President and members of the body, the Journal-Star had a poll not long ago in which not one person polled trusted a politician and I think it is this kind of actions that brings about that distrust. I was appalled at the results of that poll and I am appalled today. I have always defended the unique Unicameral legislators as being responsive and responsible. I was gone the morning that LB 325 had attached the amendment for the senators' retirement, and I think