

one, will cast my vote in favor of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Four minutes, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, keep this in mind, we are taking this issue to the court, and if the court says that under the Constitution, we are entitled to a pension program, there is nothing wrong or unethical about what we are doing. The only way we can get to that point is by enacting legislation so that it goes before the court. And one point I want to be sure and get into the record, the provision of the Constitution dealing with compensation is ambiguous. It does allow a different construction based on how you read it, and the construction the Legislature is giving is that the limitation on salary per month is only related to present salary while you are in office. It is silent as to a deferred compensation after you leave office. If we, as a matter of absolute literal fact, are limited to four hundred dollars a month, how can the state pay the employer's share of our social security, and that is going into a federal pension program. It is not authorized by this Legislature. The federal government cannot overrule this Legislature and say we are entitled to more than four hundred dollars a month if the Constitution puts that limit on us, yet it is not unconstitutional under this Constitution that limits us to a four hundred dollar salary to have that portion of our social security paid. In addition to that, I mentioned that the employees who are limited under the Constitution to only salary and per diem are already in a retirement program. So since that provision of the Constitution is silent on a retirement program, the Legislature is justified in construing it to mean that we are not prohibited from having a retirement program and this amendment, if adopted, will put us in a position to have a ruling from the court, and I don't see how that is reprehensible, but if it is, remember, my name is on the bill, and if people say that I am a scoundrel, that is what I have to be. There are other bills I have gotten through this Legislature or just offered which have caused me to be called every manner of thing, but what I would like to see one of these papers do, after this amendment is adopted with my name on the bill, take a poll among Nebraskans and ask how many of them trust me as opposed to a judge, a lawyer, a minister, or whoever the other categories were that they lumped all politicians into. I am not surprised that people say they don't trust politicians. I wouldn't be surprised if people said they don't trust me as far as they can see me. The fact is that there are certain obligations that I, as a legislator, must assume. This is one