

Quotes taken from Harlan v. Sweet

- *"The word "salary" in section 9(b), we hold, encompasses all forms of compensation paid to the public official for performing the duties of the office."*
- *"We also note that the terms "salary" and "compensation" are virtually synonymous (Cummings v. Smith (1937), 368 Ill. 94, 99, 13 N.E.2d 69) and are used interchangeably in these provisions of the constitution. The term "salary" is merely more commonly used to describe the payment that elected officials receive for their services, just as the term "wages" is more commonly used to describe the payment that some laborers receive and "commission" is the term used to describe the payment that some salespeople receive. It is simply hard to envision how these elected officials, who are paid by way of salary, can be given more money for the performance of their duties and have it be termed something other than salary. In fact, the "no other compensation for their service" provision in the executive article is merely designed for the same purpose as the provision in the local government article that eliminates the fee system, although stated differently. (Ill. Ann. Stat., 1970 Const., art. V, § 21, Constitutional Commentary, at 367-68 (Smith-Hurd 1971).)"*
- *"We do not accept plaintiffs' argument that this difference indicates that only salaries of public officials cannot be increased during their terms of office and that this restriction does not apply to other forms of compensation such as a stipend. Even if there was a significant difference in the meanings of the terms in this context, the same two principles which prohibit increasing salaries would prohibit the payment of other forms of compensation, that is: (1) the power to increase one's salary (compensation) should not be used to influence the performance of an officeholder, and (2) a person ought not to be able to increase his or her own salary (compensation). (See G. Braden & R. Cohn, The Illinois Constitution: An Annotated & Comparative Analysis 476-77 (1969).)"*
- *"It is simply hard to envision how these elected officials, who are paid by way of salary, can be given more money for the performance of their duties and have it be termed [1195*1195](#) something other than salary."*
- *Relying on an Ohio Supreme Court case, Attorney General Roland Burris found that health insurance benefits constituted compensation.[13] After agreeing with the Illinois cases that found the term "salary" synonymous with compensation, the Attorney General opined that Article VII, Section 9(b) would apply to the provision of publicly funded health insurance benefits, and thus, prohibit increases or decreases to coverage during a term of office.*