

when the money isn't there you can't do it. I would point out that the state receives very little revenue from this. Most of the money that is collected, at least in the case of fines, does not go to the state, obviously, it goes to the schools under the Constitution, which Senator DeCamp, I think, is familiar with. The Committee did approve five additional positions, half of what was requested, the same amount that the Governor's office also recommended. I think that it probably is adequate. Again, I can appreciate someone will plead that this is only \$33,000. But I repeat to you that \$33,000 here, and \$33,000 there soon adds up to a great deal more than that. We're down to the point where everything you add reduces the probability of something else. We're down to the point where we can eliminate capital construction this coming year, as far as General Fund appropriations, if we keep adding, especially some of the larger amounts. I guess what the members are faced with is to choose. You can choose from the list that is down here, together with other things you would like to add. But I don't think that adding five more employees, to the 303 employees that are already employed in the county court system, is that significant. And that the \$33,000 probably, if it is to be used at all, has a higher priority in some other agency.

PRESIDENT: Senator Luedtke.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm going to plead with you one more time to listen to the needs of your court system in Nebraska. Senator Warner has eluded to the fact that some of this money, and a great deal of this money as fines, goes into the school system. That is true. That is because of the Constitution. But over \$6 million, in 1976, went into the counties coffers by way of inheritance taxes. This is an extremely intricate and involved assessment system. It involves a lot of figuring, and a lot of careful work on the part of these county courts. This helps the county. What about the \$645,000 that came back to the counties by way of overload fines? That had nothing to do with the fines we're talking about. What I'm trying to point out to you is that this is the peoples court that we're talking about. This is the county court, the court of limited jurisdiction, the court that touches 90 percent of the people that ever get into a court, 95 percent probably, really in Nebraska. We are talking about the court system that we say there is a lot of crime, a lot of traffic problems. We want these courts to have immediate justice. We want it handled efficiently and on the spot. These courts have done it. They've responded. They've responded with very few employees. They have asked, in the last couple of years, to have ten additional employees for the entire State of Nebraska. We question it this year. We didn't question it last year. Yet the increase is just that much more. In fact, from 1975 it went up from '74 to '75 213,000 cases, and more than 227,000 in 1976, and it is going up in 1977. We want attention paid to these cases, but we do not want to even add five employees for the entire State of Nebraska. This is the old trite saying--"penny-wise and pound-foolish". Justice doesn't come free when you have a court system, and when the state is responsible for it. This will probably be the last time, in this session, I'm going to speak about it. But I'm going to plead with you, search yourselves, search your counties, search your justice system on your local level, and realize what is going to happen if we don't pay some attention to it. This is \$33,000 well spent. It's an investment in the judiciary of this state.