

I think you voted against it. This is an important matter. I prevail upon you to be fair to one of the three subdivisions of government. When we talk about separation of powers the court system relies upon the Legislature to be fair and equitable in setting the amount of the budget. It is no wonder that people like Senator Richard Lewis talk about we ought to go back to the local courts because if the state is not going to take care of them then they can argue well we'll take care of them back home. The idea was that we have a unified court system that is working very well, but we have to pay for the judges and the staff, and all of that, except for the courtrooms which are supplied by the counties. That is the only thing. This is an important amendment to this bill. I can feel for the Committee on Appropriations. I can understand why Senator Warner takes the position he has taken. He does not like to have this budget opened up. I don't blame him. Senator Marvel felt that way for years, and so did other members of the Committee. But when it is a matter of simple justice carrying out the justice of this state, then I plead with you to be fair to those people who are trying to do the job for us.

PRESIDENT: I must allow Senator Lewis one minute in response. I recognize that, but it is seldom that a closing argument uses the phrase that that is a lie. In view of that, I must acknowledge that. You will have a further opportunity to respond, which will finally close it. One minute, Senator Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Thank you Mr. President. If our compatriot in the front row has blown all the steam that he's accumulated down there, and is willing to listen just a little bit to reason, I don't recall ever saying that it was implied that it would be self-sufficient. I asked Senator Barnett if, in our discussion and debate on that bill, it wasn't suggested that this be self-supporting. So if I have wronged you, if you are badly shaken, if I questioned your integrity, then I apologize. But otherwise I resent the statement, I think it was completely uncalled for. I think you are going to have to, as Speaker, learn to control yourself a little bit. I have no further statement.

PRESIDENT: You have one minute, Senator Luedtke.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: I accept your apology.

PRESIDENT: The question now is the adoption of the amendment. I'll accept your votes. Have you voted? Please vote. Record. Yes.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'd like a Call of the House.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall the House go under Call. Record your vote on going under Call. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 14 nays to go under Call.

PRESIDENT: We are under Call. Record your presence, please. All senators are required, by your rules, to return to your desks, stay there, and record your presence. You do that by pressing the green button, not by responding to me when I call your name. Senator Kelly, for what purpose do you arise?