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recently. I know the district court bench in Sarpy County had a vacancy very recently, and they attracted a lot of applicants, very accomplished attorneys, so I don't think we're at that critical mass yet, where we are losing individuals' interest in applying to become judges in the state of Nebraska. The judges are very...they're handsomely paid compared to other state workers. Compared to other constitutional officers, they

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Synowiecki.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: ...receive a retirement benefit that I wish I could sign up for, you know, \$70,000...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Excuse me, Senator?

SENATOR CUDABACK: I said time, Senator.

SENATOR SYNOWIECKI: Thank you, Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Bourne, followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Bourne waives his opportunity. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I must utter another discouraging word which relates to the judiciary. In Douglas County, you have a rogue court, peopled by rogue judges, who feel accountable to and responsible to nobody other than me. You know why I say it on the mike? Because they know that it's true, and they'll listen to me when they won't listen to anybody else. What these scoundrels decided to do is, whenever an indigent defendant is represented by a court-appointed lawyer, instead of those lawyers being paid a measly \$50 an hour for however many hours are necessary to represent the person, the Douglas County court judges wanted to impose a flat \$100 fee for all the work, whether it's a traffic case or a murder case, which means that you're going to get the most inept, incompetent people. The only reason the judges did that was that they said it would save \$10,000 on their budget. Whenever a court system seeks to balance its budget by