

about the wisdom frankly of imposing an additional dollar on the court costs in criminal conviction cases and using that money and using that money for the law enforcement improvement fund. The court administrator, Mr. Joe Steele came in and testified to our committee that it was basically the philosophy of the judiciary that court costs ought to be used essentially for the administration of justice which means very simply, for the court system and no part of court costs should be specifically earmarked for nonjudicial functions and frankly that seems like a very wise philosophical point. So what we have done with this amendment is we have just said simply that there shall be no one dollar of court costs going into the law enforcement improvement fund but that does not mean in any way to detract from the training operation in Grand Island. Whatever monies this Legislature wishes to appropriate out of general funds for that endeavor can be done and should be done. We do not mean to interfere or hamper with that training function. We are only de earmarking a fund to make certain that whatever court costs are available are essentially used for the administration of justice and not the furtherance of some other worthwhile and valuable social program. We think this frankly is in keeping with sound, responsible fiscal government.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment for two or three reasons. Several years ago, like in 1971 or whenever the law enforcement improvement statute was created by this body, they decided at that time in addition to the one dollar collected as fees by the judiciary handling law enforcement actions they would collect one dollar for retirement of judges and in addition to that they would collect one dollar for the law enforcement improvement fund. That fund was to pay for the schooling of officers which is now located at Grand Island, Nebraska. This bill simply said that we would eliminate one of the bookkeeping steps in handling this money. Now we come at this late date which was not heard before the committee, at least from the public and two senators have suggested that we change this entire way of funding of the school out at Grand Island. I suggest if we want to accept this amendment we take it back to the committee, have an appropriate hearing and bring that to this body to see if that is what they want to do. I don't think it is appropriate to come in, put the amendment in yesterday, we vote on it today to change the entire system. If we are going to change that, then why don't we put another amendment on to take the one dollar fee out that goes for judges' retirement at the same time,