

SENATOR FOWLER: Well it does seem to me that the Law Enforcement Training Center is no more related to court costs if we are going to be strict in that determination than any other general fund expenditure.

SENATOR DeCAMP: But nobody is challenging it right now.

SENATOR FOWLER: Right.

SENATOR DeCAMP: If you put that amendment on you will get an Attorney General's opinion or something challenging it where you are just taking and collect money in court and putting it into the general fund. It is just basically a tax.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well I think Senator DeCamp has convinced me that maybe the bill is best as it is right now, that we not add that dollar, that we not take it and that we not use court costs or fund anything other than the cost of courts and that we shouldn't give it to a training center or we shouldn't give it to the probation system or we shouldn't earmark it for other things. So I think that if we are in some sort of constitutional questionable area we simply should not put the dollar back on, that Senator Johnson and Senator Chambers have steered us in the right direction. So I don't think we need to send it back to committee. I think Senator Johnson should reconsider his next amendment if it is blatantly unconstitutional because I know Vard would never want to do anything that is blatantly unconstitutional and I think that we should simply advance the bill as it is.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we continue, as a guest of Senator Rumery, Chris Rosenberg from North Platte, Nebraska, right over here; Margaret Moylan, is she still in the room? Yes, there she is, from Richard Peterson's district and Norfolk, James Nelson over here and from Emil Beyer's district, Webb Warren, insurance agent from Gretna, Nebraska. Larry Frerichs from Wilcox underneath the North balcony. Okay. Senator Chambers, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this issue of court costs is something that I have dealt with for years. When Senator Luedtke was here as a member of the Legislature he attempted on a number of occasions to raise the costs, sometimes by two dollars, sometimes by one dollar and I fought it all the time and was successful in defeating it. I have stated time and time again that I do not think the courts should be self-sustaining in terms of raising enough fees in court costs to pay for the courts anymore than any other city or state