

service is totally funded by those who make use of it. The courts are provided by the Constitution. They are required and they are to be open to all citizens and they should not be required to be self-supporting. The state has an obligation and when they created a unified state court system it meant that the state would appropriate the money necessary to fund the courts and we would make no correlation between the cost of operating the courts and the costs that are assessed in an action before the court. Now, when court costs are collected now in any part of the state system they go into the general fund. Then money is appropriated to run the courts. When money is taken in in Omaha and Lincoln which have municipal court systems aside from the dollar for the law enforcement training fund and the dollar for the judges retirement fee goes into these cities general fund. Then they appropriate whatever money is necessary to run the courts. I don't know what in the world Senator DeCamp is talking about. I understand the words that he is uttering but they have nothing to do with the issue that is before us now. If it is felt by any of the members that since the amendment has been adopted and that money will not be collected from court costs to fund the Law Enforcement Training Center but rather that will be done by appropriation, there are other bills before a committee right now dealing with court costs and if it is felt that the dollar should be taken off or subtracted, that can be done on one of those bills and they are before the committee right now. Senator Nichol knows it. Everybody on the Judiciary Committee knows that. So whatever we are going to do in terms of subtracting from the court costs this dollar, that can be done and there are bills before the committee right now and on every one of these bills the issue that was contained in this amendment was raised before those committees, the impropriety of attaching these extra amounts that have nothing to do with the administration of the court system. I did agree as a member of the Government Committee I think it is, that we ought to study the relationship between the costs that are raised through the assessment of costs in court and how much it costs the courts to operate. Personally, I don't think there should be any correlation whatsoever. The police division and the fire division do not have to raise fees or funds to be supported. People other than those who use these services contribute to their use. The court system is one of the most important institutions in a society and especially a democracy. The state has an obligation to provide these courts. I don't think there ought to be a separate municipal court in Omaha nor one in Lincoln. They ought to all be merged under one state court system and if we stop giving an incentive to these cities to maintain courts by continuing to increase court costs, they would then