

for the administration of the court system at the county level so if I get a traffic ticket in Box Butte County the judge before whom I appear is paid, his salary is established by and his salary is paid by the State of Nebraska. If I got a traffic ticket in the City of Omaha I would appear before a judge whose salary was set by the Legislature, yet whose salary was paid by the taxpayers or the citizens of the City of Omaha and I don't think that is appropriate. I think the City of Omaha and the City of Lincoln have, in fact, been cheated to that extent and it isn't fair to continue to operate the system the way it is. I really see no logical reason for the court system to be divided the ways it is. So I think it is only a matter of equity. Another point that I think is important is that we do establish those salaries and because we have that function I think it is wrong for us to mandate higher salaries on local government if we're not willing to pay for those salaries ourselves. I do think that the operation of the court system is really a state, not a local function and, therefore, I would urge you to advance LB 590 to rectify what I think is an inequity in the current system.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR HABERMAN: A question of Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler, do you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Beutler, why was this set up this way in the first place?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Haberman, it was set up in 1923 and I'm not really sure.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Vard Johnson had a story in the World Herald the other day and he said that the...western Nebraska was not bearing their fair share of the taxes and he went on to cut western Nebraska off at the knees. Well now, I really don't go along with Senator Johnson and his news story and I'm getting information together to show where I think he is wrong. For example, on the UNO 99% of the kids that go there are from Omaha, yet the entire state supports it. So here is another example. Here is another example of what we're saying to everybody but Omaha and Lincoln, gee, we're in a bind, let's go down to the Legislature and let's sock all of the citizens for