

I couldn't stand up here and say these things but it doesn't read deficit. It reads surplus. So I say this is not the year to lay on to the citizens of Nebraska \$622,710. Now you say, Rex, where do you get that figure? Well you've got to add Lincoln in because we are going to take over their municipal court judges also. So when you add the two together that is almost...that is 60% of a million dollars that we're going to unload on the state taxpayers. I don't think this is the year to do it. Let's put it off a year. You know the problems that we're having with the budget now. I asked the reason why they had municipal court judges in the first place. They couldn't even answer the question. So I ask you to support the kill motion as to me they don't need the money and I don't think we should lay it on to all of the taxpayers due to Lincoln and Omaha trying to squeeze more money out of the taxpayers when I think they are getting their share of the state funds now. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me remind you just quickly again what the bill does. In the first place it starts to consolidate functions between the county courts and the municipal courts and in the second place it says that the salaries of the municipal judges are going to be paid out of state funds as opposed to the local property taxes. And let me remind you once again the reason that we brought this bill to you. In Imperial, Nebraska, in the little towns surrounding Imperial, Nebraska, and in the rural community everywhere in Senator Haberman's district, if municipal ordinances are violated or if certain types of small cases come up for adjudication, all of those are handled in the county courts. In Omaha and in Lincoln those same violations, those same city ordinance violations go to the municipal court. So in other words, for the same service Lincoln and Omaha pay out of local property taxes and at the same time we're helping Imperial and Scottsbluff and the other communities out-state handle their traffic violations by contributing to the salaries of the county judges. It's the county judges in the county courts that handle those types of cases. So all we're asking for from you today is some equity, that is that the same types of cases be paid for in the same way. Senator Haberman asked about the history last time around and I was not able to give him the history of why we have municipal courts in the two cities. Since that time I have gone back and tried to get a little bit of the history but let me read to you what the researchers came up with. "There is no written explanatory legislative records of the 1915 and 1923 laws, however, previous to the 1915 law city