

March 1, 1982

LB 590

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, do I have an opportunity to speak again? My light is on. Okay, I'll wait, Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

SENATOR KILGARIN: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I would like to comment especially on Senator Nichol's comments on his suggestion that a study be done. As he knows as chairman of the Judiciary Committee a study was done. There were interim hearings over the summer which he attended. There was a report which was submitted and the study was done and what was suggested is exactly what we are doing here with 590 today. We're taking it in steps and that is what the study suggested, that we do it slowly and effectively. We will in the end merge the municipal and the county court system so I would suspect that with that final goal in mind that Senator Nichol's fears should be eliminated. And to answer Senator Haberman's questions about the 3.5 million dollars so-called surplus, I must say that it is really not a surplus. That 3.5 million dollars was over the estimated revenue of what the city council had expected to receive because of the high interest rates we received on the money that we did have in savings but because of the 1981 deficit spending there will be a vote tomorrow in the city council and probably about half of that 3.5 million dollars will be effectively spent on the 1981 deficit. We also have a 7% police pay increase that we will have to be funding in addition to a \$6 million federal loss for garbage collection problems and that has to be made up somewhere. So effectively that \$3.5 million additional revenue that we had is already spent and that isn't the issue here anyway. I think the issue is equity merging the court system as the study said, slowly and in step so that we can work out the retirement problems that Senator Nichol brought up and work out the pension problems. I would urge you to vote against Senator Haberman's kill motion and give 590 a chance to advance to Final Reading and when we decide how much money we have for A bills I think then we need to prioritize our appropriation bills and then make a decision as to what priority 590 has on our list. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the argument on 590 in my mind is an argument that has to do with the court system with the proper control and functioning of the court system and whose responsibility it is and it is also a matter of tax equity or fairness. I don't particularly want to get into the question of who is getting too much money