

force everybody to share the burden equally, then we are starting to make not just a salary decision but a different kind of philosophical decision. What we are saying for example is that we really don't need this level of quality in this or that position. I think that that kind of an unconscious decision, unconscious salary cutting counteracts all of the thoughtful decisions that we have made in this legislature over the years. If you are going to say for example the judges should not keep up with personal income in the state, what you are saying is that we should have a lower quality judiciary. What you are saying is that the lawyers that come into the courts on behalf of this client and that client should be considerably superior in quality and intelligence and experience and in judgment than the people who are asked to make the decisions. I think that is the wrong kind of decision to make here. Although, that would be the one we would be making. I think in these times of economic hardship that we should start thinking about the other choice and the other choice is this. Instead of cutting salaries in a way that is burdensome and in a way that puts public employees at further disadvantages with private industry, in a way that, in ways that hurt the quality of the institutions that we have, that we should start thinking about cutting programs, just wholesale cutting programs and doing well what we do and doing in a right way what we do rather than trying to do too much. Because, if we slowly dilute the quality of the institutions by trying to keep all of the institutions and every agency and every function the only result will be that we will do poorly everything. The result of that will be that the public... that public institutions will be further discredited, that the public will be further unhappy with public institutions the result of which will be we'll cut their salaries even more and we get into a cycle of defeat. So I think that we have to stop right now and decide what we can do. What functions government can perform and those that they can not perform and perform well those that we can and simply cut those that we can't rather than destroying and deteriorating every function that we perform. Getting back to the point in question, we have a good system, we have a good judicial system in Nebraska. The dockets are relatively up to date, you may have little problems here and there. . . .

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: . . . justice is dispensed, but by and large it is well dispensed and dispensed in a timely manner and by and large we have a high quality judiciary which serves us well and which is high enough quality to keep a rein on all of the lawyers in the state to see that all of the consumers, the legal consumers in the state are treated with