

I forget. Senator Chambers makes some wild generalizations. Sometimes there's a tinge of merit to them but many times they are just so overstated and overdramatized that they are not accurate in any way. With respect to civil rights, I can tell you that we are tending to go more to the state courts now, that when we represent clients, particularly if the defendant is a public entity like a political subdivision or the state or the federal government, particularly if it is the state or county or a municipality, we are going to the state courts with civil rights cases because we don't have to deal with the defense of sovereign immunity. We believe, in our firm, quite frankly, that the judges in Lancaster County are very competent and able legal scholars. They are handling more and more of these kind of cases, so we are beginning to take more of these discrimination, employment matters, civil rights matters, to the state district court here in Lancaster County.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: One of the reasons people have traditionally went to the federal courts is because it is generally federal law, although we have state civil rights law now, too, that is modeled after the federal law. One of the reasons I think lawyers often go to the federal courts is because for so long federal judges have handled these cases so they are more familiar with them, but I think the trend in the future will be to take them to state court and I think you get a more...for a lot of reasons state judges are handling more of these cases, you get a quicker trial, you don't have to encounter some of the defenses that you encounter in federal court, and as a matter of fact, I think the trend will be to see all these cases in state court. And I think it's unfair to categorize and say that necessarily the state courts are inferior to the federal courts and sometimes I would much rather be in state court than federal court on certain issues. I think as a general rule the federal judiciary has been a little more prestigious position in part because of the higher salary they have received; and I think there shouldn't be that much disparity between the federal bench and the state bench here in Nebraska, so I would urge the 50 percent, I think is, if you want to raise it that high I suppose you could, I'd still vote for it. I think the idea of the 20 percent is reasonable. We wanted to get Nebraska judges in the mid-range of...in comparison with other states and what they pay their judges, so I think the 20 percent that Senator Schmit has brought in his bill is correct.