

they are paid, and, secondly, what I think is a lack of uniformity as the way it is treated from court to court.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. I will now recognize Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Kristensen and Lindsay. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, again, if I may. What would you think, and I am throwing this open for your reaction, what would you think of an amendment to this bill that simply said no court reporter receiving fees under this bill shall perform the services identified in this section during regular business hours?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: How would you define regular business hours?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would leave it to the courts to define regular business hours.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Because if we did that, my first reaction is that if we left it open for the judges to decide, regular business hours could be for one hour a day.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Not the judges, the court administrator's office.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Then my comment would be that that would be so inflexible and would not be able to match the needs of what occurs out there. Particularly in any area other than Omaha and Lincoln, the courts have a variety of hours that they operate, depending on they may travel, for example, from Red Cloud over to Holdrege, which may be one hundred and some miles. They get over there ready for a trial, the trial doesn't occur, so what do they do? It happens every once in awhile. You try not to have that waste of drive time, but if the trial settles, it settles and justice is served. But what does the court reporter do? Is that regular business hours, so they sit around not able to do anything else when they could be doing some appeal transcript work which they are behind on. Most of these people are pushed for time and aren't able to get those things done during the off hours. When a trial may settle, that is when they have the opportunity to do their work. And so, from that point, I find that very inflexible. I understand your problem. I understand the perception and I believe that is the problem is