

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President. I apologize to Senator Bernard-Stevens. I didn't have a chance to discuss the issue with him. I will be drafting an amendment to the bill. I don't know whether or not I will pursue it on Select File but I have long felt that clerk of the district court was simply a function that made no sense to me why we were electing that position. And, in the meantime, I will be discussing the matter with Senator Bernard-Stevens and others and perhaps I will back off of it. But I truly think it is nonsensical that we're spending time, and money and effort electing somebody to that particular position. So at least we ought to discuss it and perhaps pursue it but we'll see if that happens or not. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. I now recognize Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body, again, I rise to support this issue only to support, I think, what Senator Bernard-Stevens said in that I think the real practical effect of this particular piece of legislation will not be all of a sudden a lot of smaller counties will be creating the post of clerk of the district court but rather that those that were going to have to do away with that position will now be given the opportunity to retain that position. The workload, as was demonstrated by case numbers, has not decreased with the decline in population. So the need for the job, whether that job is elected, whether that job is paid, or a salaried employee is not the issue in this particular case. The issue in this particular case is to allow the counties who have seen a population decline to retain their clerk of the district court. Urge your support of the bill. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Seeing no one else wishing to speak on the issue, do you have a closing statement, Senator Bernard-Stevens?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Just a brief closing. Senator Wesely, I remember a week ago, and I think you were in the Chamber when it happened, that I offered an amendment on a bill of Senator Withem's and it kind of changed the focus of Senator Withem's bill and I was properly, I think, chastised somewhat by Senator Beutler who said that such amendments like that shouldn't be