

Court and there are agencies coming before the Appropriations this afternoon and one of the things that the Supreme Court has mentioned is that if they have to absorb some of the budget cuts on an across-the-board thing that all people would have to work with in order to meet the revenue projections we have at this particular time, that they would consider and they have been considering reducing or not having funding for what we passed a year or so ago, LB 663, which is money for juveniles in cities and working with those particular groups. I'm thinking of North Platte, for example, the juvenile holding facility that is there. I'm thinking of the programs in the region of that area that are going to be determined and their living existence will be whether or not 663 funding is available again through this Legislature. The Supreme Court Administrator's office, basically, is coming to the Appropriations Committee, or has at least, and suggested that, hey, these things may have to be cut. But yet we can turn right around and look at 1.4 and \$1.8 million for the next few years and say, hey, that's great because we're backlogged. Well, people, when you sit on that Appropriations Committee and you sit for the long hours you find out that we're backlogged in a lot of areas. We're severely backlogged and overburdened and undermanned in areas that people need help. And it's not just a question of do I want my case to go on three years on a divorce and isn't that a terrible thing. Of course, that would be. Who would say...who, in their right mind, would say, yes, we want it to be at least three years or longer? But, on the same token, I know there are cases out there on juvenile delinquency, on caseloads on child abuse, of people on domestic abuse and what have you that we don't have enough people to go out and even inform the people of what services are available because of such a backlog. And the thing I can't help think about when I get to appropriations bills of this nature, I have no question, Senator Kristensen, that LB 732 is necessary. I have no question about that. But when I sit there and weigh all of the needs that we have when finances are down, I have to look at it and say, is this need any more greater than some of the other needs that deal directly with the people that are suffering, that are suffering, and we can't get help to them because there's not enough funding. I, at least, know that in this case if...if this particular bill does not pass on Final Reading or if it's held up until next year or delayed for awhile, at least I know these people will have a decision made at some point. But I know that if we take 1.4 and 1.8 right now in the crucial part, I can go off and start listing the people who will not have any needs met that are