

SENATOR ROBINSON: Uh-huh.

SENATOR LANDIS: The administration of the advisory council is under the court administrator. Members of the district judges, the county judges, and the State Bar Association would sit on that council, along with eight other appointees of the Supreme Court.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Has there been a history of... I think you mentioned that, but in individual cases where there is a decrease in cost for courts? I would think that then we could start cutting down on our costs that these large costs that we get in front of the Appropriations Committee from the Supreme Court that I'm sure there would be a big decrease there and we could save some money. Is that correct?

SENATOR LANDIS: My fingers are crossed, I certainly hope so. Unfortunately, we are a sufficiently litigious society, Senator Robinson, that I wouldn't make a hefty prediction. The federal government, in analyzing its costs, though, found out that as a lender if they took their cases to mediation, rather than to court, they save themselves \$16 million a year in their costs of hiring lawyers, court fees, staff time and the like.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Why couldn't we do that?

SENATOR LANDIS: The State of Nebraska?

SENATOR ROBINSON: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: Absolutely, makes perfect sense. You've probably got a...before I, off the top of my head, say that we could do that, we'd probably have to look at a state tort claims act but if we had disputes, there's no reason why we couldn't mediate them. If you take a look at, for example, boundary disputes, oftentimes mediation; interstate water transfers, oftentimes mediation...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...is the result.

SENATOR ROBINSON: No more questions.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robinson. Senator Beutler.