

we're too overloaded. Douglas County has a huge problem in its caseload. Now you've heard some of the problems from around the state about where the caseload is and where it's not. There's a big caseload in Douglas County. This bill kind of moved along to Select File with very little problem at General File, and that's because finally, for the first time, this became a state problem. Nobody cared until there was a judge moved from Columbus to Omaha. Nobody cared until there was a threat that a judge might be moved from the Panhandle to Omaha. Even though the figures have been telling us that for years, we have huge inequities in the way our judicial system is structured right now. And it does make me angry because I just came from two people who shouldn't have had to wait for a year to get their divorce heard, it just should not have happened. If that case had been filed anywhere else in the state, it would have been done 9, 10, 11 months ago, but it wasn't. I think redistricting, judiciary redistricting is badly needed. I think substantial judicial redistricting is badly needed. What we're talking about, I believe in the Beutler amendment, is minor changes. What the Beutler amendment would also do is save money. I had an amendment filed that was passed over that would have provided two judges, without harming services anywhere in the state it would have provided two extra judges for the Omaha area. It would have saved \$250,000 for the state. From what Senator Beutler tells me it was voted down pretty good. So when we get to the end of the session here, in 10 or 12 days, and we hear everybody scrambling and talking about how there is no money to spend on our programs, remember, those of you who voted against that, that you chose not to use our state resources wisely, because I think that's exactly what's happened. If we're interested in cutting the budget, if we're interested in spending wisely, and I have heard that repeatedly in the last two or three weeks, we talk about a property tax problem, and I hear from several people, have you looked at cutting spending? This is a way we could cut spending without cutting services to anybody in the state, and yet we refuse to do it. I'm going to support the Beutler amendment. I doubt it's going to pass, but I think we've got to look real hard at it. And in a few days, when we're voting on that budget, remember, there was another quarter of a million that we passed up here today. Thanks.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I'd like to ask Senator Beutler a question.