

wish to speak to the Beutler amendment? Seeing none, do you have closing, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I feel a little disheartened right now, and I think it really has to do with some of my perceptions of the democratic process, generally, and some of the faults in it. The mention of the trails bill, you know, therein lies the whole problem with our system. The whole problem is that nobody can stand up and play defense when they rightly feel the defense should be played. Nobody can stand up and say, this is wrong, or this shouldn't be done this way because we're all so afraid that what we're working on offensively, our own bills, are going to be stomped, that retribution is going to be taken. And so what happens in the process? It's a trading up process, isn't it. And when we trade up we spend more, and we're never able to stop that cycle. And it's when I think about those things that I think, my gosh, maybe a lid is the only answer, because when anybody tries to do the right thing in here, they're punished. This isn't even Senator Robak's bill. My gosh, I guess we shouldn't say anything negative about anybody's bill. In any event, back to the substance of the matter before you. All I would ask, once again, is that you save yourself \$100,000 by creating one new judgeship, instead of two, and combining the 21st and 5th Districts into one district, and transferring that judge over to Omaha so that Omaha would get the two judges, no harm would be done to either the 21st or the 5th Districts, no harm whatsoever. Even if the judicial work loads are off by 50 percent, and I assure you they're not off by 50 percent, even if they're off by 70 percent, the work load still wouldn't be equal to Omaha's. They're not off by 70 percent, they're not off by 50 percent. Maybe you could argue they're off 5 percent, or 10 percent, but look at what 5 percent or 10 percent means in this situation we're dealing with. The imbalance is so pathetic, so really pathetic that it should be embarrassing to all of us to perpetrate this system when we need money so badly. You know, another thought I have, and I just as well say it, another thought I have on these matters, rural development. We need to put some money into rural development, I believe that, and I will vote for it, and I have voted for it in a number of ways, and I'll vote for it again. But you know, rural development is not having unworked judges sitting out there doing nothing for the productivity of the region. We should take that money, the 100,000, and I tell you we could save a half a million, if we really did this right, we could save a