

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chambers, your light is next on the Beutler amendment, the current Beutler amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'm glad that Senator Beutler is reading bills with a microscopic eye also and I support his amendment. And, in the process of doing so, I'm going to go ahead and share with you a little more information about a case I had mentioned. This former police chief's name was Greg Webb and it was in Lyons. And, in 1988, when this murder occurred, the people in Burt County had said...let me read this to you, a paragraph from this article. The cost of trying Webb first was raised in 1988 when author Calvin Trillain, writing in the New Yorker magazine about the case, quoted Lyons' residents as hoping Webb, a former mercenary in Rhodesia now called Zimbabwe, would disappear forever or be slain elsewhere so he would not be brought back for trial. And it was because of the expense. When he was caught and brought back, here is what was said February 24, 1993, in the World-Herald, on page 1. Residents expressed relief that Webb had been arrested in Holly Hill, Florida but also said they were concerned about spending thousands of dollars to try him for murder in a county already strapped for money. One attorney said costs would exceed \$100,000 if Webb requests two court-appointed attorneys, as he is entitled in a murder case, and if Burt County Attorney Nora Goll requests a prosecutor to help her. Referring to the attorney's statement that costs could exceed \$100,000 for a trial, Ellis said, "We don't have anything in the budget to cover anything like that." Then May 6, 1994, the headline in the Lincoln Journal, Fugitive Chief Joked About Pursuit. "When former Lyons' police chief Greg Webb talks about his six years on the lam, it sounds like a movie that could be titled, Webb's Great Adventure." Then here's some of the things he said in an interview. These guys are so stupid...talking about the police, he said, they had my airline tickets, they knew I was on the plane and went to Belize. They never sent any warrants down there and they never told the people in Central America about me. But after they caught him, and he came back and there was this concern about the trial, here is the way it turned out. He pleaded no contest to manslaughter and guilty to tampering with physical evidence in a plea bargain because he feared a witness he needed would not come forward and he didn't want to put his case in front of a jury. Webb was sentenced Thursday to eight years and four months to nineteen years in prison. He could be eligible for