

days ago Senator Chambers brought up the Chief of Police of Lyons who was accused of murdering his girl friend and how he got off by, I guess it was...pleaded...there was a plea bargain there and he got off with manslaughter, which I guess, in my mind, it was a travesty. Now in a case like that, if this bill passed, how would it help this situation which is in my legislative district? What could they have done to help that?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator,...

SENATOR ROBINSON: They didn't have any money and I think it was Senator Chambers had stated that it probably happened because they didn't have enough money.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: To the extent, and money is on both sides, obviously, on the prosecution and the defense. But where the major cost would be, would be in defense. If this unit was able to go up and handle the trial of that case, that county would not have paid the per hour rate that it probably would have paid for a contract lawyer, because I assume you don't have a public defender.

SENATOR ROBINSON: That's right.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And, to that extent, you would have been able to receive those services and saved you some property tax, but also probably allowed for competent defense, and there would have been less likely a chance of appeal,...

SENATOR ROBINSON: So you're saying there would be...

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...a successful appeal.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ...three or four lawyers that would be...act as public defenders in this group.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's what this envisions is at the most five, probably four to five I think is probably the number that we've talked about, given that amount of appropriation. And they'd be able to handle probably somewhere in the neighborhood of two to three cases a year if there are trials and when you've got other appeals going on, because, you know, a case just doesn't end when it's tried, it goes on for appeal usually. And (interruption.)