

on the street, so what happens? They bring somebody in from the outside. In the case of Falls City, they brought attorneys from out of the county. They brought them from Omaha because they needed the expertise, and that person, although we've all assumed that he is guilty and in this state and this country, we are assumed...we are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty, and you certainly need the kind of expertise that can bring out the points. Anybody that has even had any recognition of the O.J. Simpson trial can understand that. A great amount of expertise goes into those kinds of trials, and if you don't have that kind of people to defend the supposed, suspected guilty, you know what happens. They come back on appeal after appeal after appeal, and there goes your money. And you talk about whether it is going to be cost savings. Of course, it is because if you can cut out any number of those appeals because errors are made by attorneys, no criticism of attorneys, many attorneys don't have the expertise to deal with murder cases and capital crime cases, and it is not criticizing any (interruption)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...because they don't have that, they've never had the opportunity to spend the time when they spend a lot of their time on minor cases and other issues in the field of law. So it is not a criticism of the legal profession but it is just merely a fact. But you have to understand that, in many cases, the Attorney General's Office provides assistance to the prosecution, but the defense is out there on their own, and we've got some small-town lawyer who has never had maybe one, none or one case in his life. You have got to remember, he is at a distinct disadvantage. But I have to tell you it will save money. There is no question in my mind about it, and it will provide a better and fairer and more equitable system for both the prosecution and the defense. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Avery.

SENATOR AVERY: Mr. President, members, I haven't talked, I've sat back and listened to a lot of the debate and the discussion that we've had on this. I had a question, I see Senator Kristensen kind of walked out. But I'll maybe ask him after I talk a little bit, a couple of things. I am for a situation and a solution to this. We have...we do have a problem out there and it is costing counties. I don't know if this is a