

reallocate some of our resources in the state. It ties into budget discussions. It ties into property tax relief debate. Thank you, Senator Chambers, I appreciate that. It ties into a lot of the other things we've been talking about and it ties back into the motion made a couple of days ago to bracket the budget bill to tell the Appropriations Committee to go make some cuts when people on the floor of the Legislature couldn't muster 25 votes on the floor of the Legislature to pass their own cuts. It's an indication of how easy it is to simply add additional resources and how critically difficult it is to quit spending money on things that maybe we no longer need. And, as we go through the next several painful years, if we are going to be serious with our constituents that we are going to address the taxation issue, reallocation of existing resources in governmental areas that are no longer needed at the same extent that they were in the past is going to be a critical part of our debate. LB 189 deals with judicial resources. It deals with them in a number of different ways. And Senator Robinson was correct this morning when he...when he raised the point...gosh, I hate saying that, Senator Robinson was correct (laughter), but he was correct in one aspect of what he had to say this morning that there are a number of issues intertwining in LB 189. Issue number one, as the bill was introduced, it was a bill designed to provide more judicial resources in those areas of the state where they were needed. The statistics that come out of the court administrator's office, I think, verify and at least at the district court level it has been verified by the Judicial Resources Commission that additional judicial resources are needed in Sarpy County and they are needed in Lancaster County. That's one issue. A second issue is...are...is the current level of compensation for judges appropriate. That's the second issue. And the third issue, and it's one that, to the Governor's credit, I think he put my feet and Senator Lindsay's feet to the fire when we visited with him about in his view of the budget what could be appropriated for additional judicial resources this year. The Governor drew a line in the sand with us, and it's probably a very appropriate one, where he indicated that he could see current appropriations handling one additional judge in the state but for any more they really needed to come out of a reallocation process. And so we have been working, Senator Lindsay and I have been working with the Governor's office, with the district judges, in spite of the Bar Association, have been working on a number of different ways in which this issue could be...could be addressed, in which we can meet the judicial resources needed now but find a way in which