

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. There are no further lights on. Aha, we have lights on. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I really didn't want to speak on this bill, but since nobody else was asking, there is one question that I would like to have answered, and, Senator Beutler, if I could for just a minute. The language that we just adopted said that costs shall be paid in the same manner as provided in Section 83-376, and that is the \$15 a day that you are referring to?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right, I passed out to you...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: So, in effect, we left it just the same as it has been?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay, and what you're suggesting is that we go to a percentage rather than the dollar amount?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Exactly.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And I do think that has some merit, so that we don't have to keep doing...coming back periodically to look at the issue, but I do think it has some merit and I hope that some other people will...maybe Senator Hudkins will talk about that at some point. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I am opposed to this amendment. This is going to increase the cost on the county's behalf. Going back to my original debate on the bill, the county has no way to budget for these costs if you increase them. They are paying this amount while the accused is undergoing psychiatric evaluation and until the person is found competent to stand trial. If you would change this to a percentage, it is going to roughly double the costs that the counties are going to have. There are approximately 200 plus individuals statewide of which we were talking in 197...1995, excuse me; 130 plus of these came from Lancaster County, another 70 plus came from Douglas County, and