

February 23, 1996 LB 1248

were, they did not get enough to do all the...take care of all the damages that were there. As a result of that, as I indicated earlier, there were a great many roads and bridges down there that are not now usable, and it certainly has caused a great deal of inconvenience for a lot of the people who live out on those roads where they don't have any bridges now. But the county accepts that fact because they know that they have to be realists and understanding there is never going to be enough money to cover all the things that people want. But it does inconvenience people. The second item that I wanted to mention that I think you should understand is that two of these cases that we're talking about in this cost of trials were not death penalty cases, they were second degree murder. And certainly if people commit those type of atrocities they should be made to pay some type of penalty, and so Senator Chambers' discussion about the cost of a capital or death sentence doesn't apply in those particular cases. And the last thing that I wanted to say is that it's my understanding, and I don't have any numbers and I would hope to be able to get those, but it's my understanding that in these cases that were held in Richardson County the majority of the costs were for the defense, for the defend...for the defense for the defendant in the case. And I think none of us here, anybody that's reasonable at all would not feel that it was proper for the county to provide those people who are indigent with some type of...the best defense that they could possibly provide for them. And they did hire lawyers, who had experience in the defense of these type of cases, to come down to Richardson County and defend these people. And I think that there should be some acceptance of that fact, that that is where a great deal of the costs came from, and also accept the fact that these people are entitled, if they don't have any money, to have a proper defense. Obviously the county could have hired some two-bit lawyer...I can't say that, hired some lawyer that was not as well-versed in (laughter).... I'm...I'm...I'm apologizing because that's not a proper term. I'm saying that there are some lawyers who are not as well-versed in the defense, in a murder case, as others, and so Richardson County, very wisely in my opinion, did hire adequate defense for these people. And I think that's admirable that they were willing to do that. And so there's a lot of the costs that went into that part of this shortage of money that they have. So I just wanted to make those points. And, again, I didn't mean to use the term that I did, because it's something that...that slips out. Thank you.