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LB 637

seriously ask you to look at, at some point in time in the near future, probably early next year, a bill that will do three things: that will make the clerks of the district court state employees and which will, by virtue of doing that, also make them appointed and not elected officials, and they would then be appointed by the judges so that that line of authority and control was clear.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Discussion on the Kristensen amendment, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I don't know how much longer we're going to wait on this amendment. We're going to try though here. The...there's some comments made about people's opinion of the study and shooting the messenger when we didn't like the message, but some of those people from out west, and I know them well, and I tell you they're the ones closest to the issue. They are county attorneys who deal with centralized collections in Colorado on a daily basis and they see the problems involved with that and they try to bring their experience and expertise into this discussion, and there are three of them out there and I believe Senator Bohlke brought that up. They were very...in fact, there was more than that. Some of the letters she quoted from were people who are not actually on the task force, but several of them were that I know well, have been in my office and said these are the problems and the problems that Colorado has with centralized collection. They use Lockheed Martin out there and have tremendous problems. So you may criticize them for shooting the messenger here, being the BBR study, Bureau of Business Research with the university, but these folks have daily contact with child support and collection and so on and enforcement. There was a county attorney involved in county, I'm trying to think here, a couple county attorneys and a district court judge, so they...they know...I feel they know what they're talking about and they're not giving us false information in any way, shape or form. In fact, I think a couple of them came down and actually testified at the hearing