

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 7, 2000

LB 414

mean we've got to do something to curb some of that, I think, because they say they're losing local control either, and I had an assessor that says if he changed over he'd get a flat \$10,000 more a year, and that don't quite add up, you know, because it...was he getting that much less in pay than he should or what? But, anyway, I'm going to continue to listen to this and see what I come out. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Stuhr, followed by Senators Redfield, Bromm, and Brown. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I certainly have appreciated the discussion on this issue. I do, however, have some problems and concerns regarding the bill. I think it's been mentioned previously about mixing the county and the state employees, and this continues to be a concern of mine, particularly in matters of morale with the higher salaries, the higher benefits that are given to state employees over those county employees. My concern also is the impact that it would have on local control, and I disagree with the one statement that Senator Beutler had that we would have a better quality of clerks if they were appointed by the judges. It's my understanding now that judges have a large discretion as far as what responsibilities are actually expected of the clerks and, in some counties, particularly in counties my size, these...these clerks are expected to do a variety of responsibilities. We do not have the secretaries to do the faxing, to do the telephoning, that personal one-on-one service, and if we combine these two clerks into one position I think that certainly will have an effect on the services that we're able to provide on the local level. I do also have a question. Senator Beutler, if you could explain on the one handout where it says transition period and then the ongoing costs, there is the third item there relating to benefits, a cost of about \$85,000. Did you take...is this health benefits or did you take into account possibly retirement benefits? Do you know what is included in that cost?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it's my understanding that this takes into account all of the benefits that the state would normally