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FLOOR DEBATE

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Mr. Speaker. I'm really pleased that other senators are looking at this. Because to accommodate one judge, Senator Beutler's amendment is already going to nullify the way a successful program is operating in a county right now. If Sarpy County has chosen, because of the makeup of its court system, the availability of time by its judges, to use a juvenile court judge, why should we make district courts the only way the program can be operated, because we have something being brought to us by Senator Aguilar because of one judge out there? Whenever we start doing this, we are unsettling what has been in existence, what has been working. If we were going to bring a bill that is going to start out in this manner: drug courts hereby are authorized; then we know that we're creating a system, and we put in it the way it's going to operate, and everybody who's got a drug court can testify at the committee hearing on that bill, and say, we don't want this because this is what we're doing now, and it will not help ours, but it will destroy it. What we're talking about now putting into the bill may have elicited some negative testimony, at least from Sarpy County, if they knew that this program had to be administered by the district court, because theirs is administered by the juvenile court. So we are beginning to see that this is not as simple a bill as it appeared to be on its face. Other issues besides the one that I was raising on the jailing are now coming to the fore. And this is what happens when you try to cobble something together on the floor which is a complicated situation. And it's complicated because we are trying to pour new wine into old bottles. We're taking new cloth...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and adding it to an old garment. Jesus said you don't do that, because as soon as you wash the garment, the new is going to shrink and tear the old garment even more. As the new wine, or that which is not fermented, begins to ferment, then it's going to burst those old wineskins. So what is being attempted here is to put new wine where it shouldn't be, or old wine where it shouldn't be. And we're taking a new piece of cloth and putting it into an old garment, when it's not even needed. This bill will not affect just that rogue judge out there in central Nebraska. It's to be a statewide blanket