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bit more on what I had started talking about. Judges should be held to the highest standard of anybody in the society. Higher than doctors, lawyers, preachers, teachers, all of them. They are the ones who make decisions literally involving life or death. They make decisions to deprive people of their freedom for anywhere from a day to natural life, whatever that may mean. They decide who is going to get property in a divorce, and how much of it, who is going to have parental rights, whose parental rights will be terminated. When you look at the awesome responsibilities placed on judges, there certainly ought to be a salary commensurate with the types of responsibilities that attach to and inhere...adhere to the office...inhere in the office. Because some of these judges are attached to the office like barnacles to a ship or parasites to the hide of a mangy critter. Not every judge is upstanding and acceptable in his or her conduct, just as not everybody in any human pursuit meets the standard that ought to be met. Overall, however, I don't think the judiciary in the state of Nebraska is measurably worse or better than the overall judiciary in any other state. This talk of activist judges has been a blight on the body politic. It has enflamed people. It has encouraged people who may be delicately balanced intellectually to take violent action against judges. Some of those people who are opposed to abortion have given lists of judge...not judges--they might be be doing it with the judges now--but doctors. And when one has been bumped off, they draw a line through the name, or put some kind of mark to indicate that the list is diminishing in number and size. There is no outcry or criticism of that kind of activity. Judges will hand down a decision which is unpopular, and death threats will ensue almost immediately. The irony is that many of these people identify themselves as God-believing Christians, born-again Christians, and all such things as that. Being a judge at one time may have been a position that commanded respect from any and everybody, except those the judge has sent off to the big house. Now judges who take their work very seriously, who try to do the job that they swore to do, upholding the constitution and the laws, are subjected to all kind of criticism, which they should be able to withstand and bear. They're all grown. All are adults. But the threats against the life of the judge, the judge's family, employees in the courthouse, are things which should not be encouraged.