

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

January 26, 2006 LB 529

aiming for is probably a district clerk of the district court, rather than a county clerk of the district court. And I think that that would create much more efficiency. I know that perhaps attorneys in the outlying areas wouldn't think it was a good idea. But let me give you an example. In my district of the Supreme Court, as divided, we have District 11. And North Platte has two judges in that district, Lexington has one, and McCook has one. So there are four district judges in the 11th District. Those are the stars that Senator Beutler has on his chart. So we don't have a court where there's a judge, necessarily. I mean, that's not the reason. We have a court where there is a county, and these judges go out to those various counties, or, in generally speaking now, those people come back in to one of the more metropolitan areas and have their cases heard, because the counties...the smaller counties...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...don't like to have a bunch of juries. It's very expensive. They don't even have facilities in...I tried a case myself down in Frontier County, and it was very interesting, because we had the trial taking place in the courthouse; we, meaning the attorneys on both sides, the jury, and the witnesses, all went over to the Methodist Church and had lunch. I mean, that's the way it is in these smaller counties. So I'm concerned that in the long run, it's a good system. We don't have a bad system right now, frankly. I mean, the job gets done. But I think that there's always this level of wanting to consolidate services. I think if we did this in a more cohesive manner, where we actually consolidated some of these services into an effective unit, this is the way we're going to have to ultimately go in this state. And I think...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...to sign on for each county is a mistake. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Further discussion, AM1795, Senator McDonald, followed by Senator