

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

April 10, 2006 LB 529

had been under the judges and the courts at that particular point in time, people would never have been personally taking fees and putting them in their pocket. Attorney General Opinion or no Attorney General Opinion, that just wouldn't have happened under the judges of the local...under the local judges. Misbilling on IV-H (sic) to the tune of \$220,000--that wouldn't have happened under the court system, because they have better control of their financial situation. That's not to say that they don't make mistakes. They do. We all know government is subject to people, and people are subject to making mistakes. But there are also several district courts right now that are under investigation by auditors and others, because they can't keep track of their fees, and the Supreme Court is being asked to come help them straighten out their systems, even though the Supreme Court has no authority over the clerks of the district court...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...in various places. So I really beg to differ with regard to which system would be more efficient. I think one that responds to those who manage in the local area are going to be the most efficient. No one can tell me that a clerk, elected haphazardly, is going to have, in general, the same skill sets, for example, that are needed for good clerks of the district court. On average, they won't have as good a skill set, because you're not specifically choosing them for the management skill set. You're choosing them for political reasons, and those political reasons, as we all know, can have almost no relationship to the skill set of the person being chosen. Good managers are chosen in a process where people apply, there's a review of their relevant...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...credentials, and I think that this system provides for that kind of choosing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Heard the closing on AM2787. The question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted to the committee amendments? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay.