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LB 216

bill? Nobody said a word. Not a kitten whimpered; not a mouse squeaked. But that bill got a free ride the other day and it's not going to get one the rest of the way, I promise you that. And I'm becoming more and more offended...not in a personal sense at all...that we're going to do all this battling on one million dollars, as I say, to keep the court pure and the judicial house in order, and then they shot that multimillion dollar boondoggle for Omaha because the big business people in the Chamber of Commerce wanted it without any discussion whatsoever. Without any discussion, and now all of a sudden everybody's a fiscal conservative. One million dollars against a four-point-something billion dollar budget has caused conniptions in this body. Those who let those huge expenditures move yesterday without batting an eye are suddenly feeling all kind of fear and trembling and they act like the state is going to sink into the earth, Senator Vrtiska, and never be seen or heard from again if we appropriate one million point something for the court system. Saying, as Senator Wehrbein did, that \$41 million goes to underwrite the court system, we provide the judges their salary and so forth, is totally beside the point. That is supposed to be done. This is also supposed to be done. We should not be thanked or feel we're worthy of reward for doing only what we're supposed to do, what we agreed to do, what we have a responsibility, freely assumed, to do. So, I have been challenged, I feel, and this time it's not on a personal issue at all. It's an institutional issue. We're dealing with the court, from my point of view, as a part of this governmental system. Three branches of government. Three. If there is one that is deemed to have more significance, one that is required to hold the higher ground, the one that is designed to move from deeply-held principles, it should be the judiciary.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You have different responsibilities and obligations placed on the people who are judges. The work they do is different from that done by any other public official, elected or appointed. There are restrictions placed on them which are placed on no other public official, and that is because of the nature of the work that they do. Impartiality, fairness, justice, rendering to people their due in accord with the law and the Constitution is an awesome responsibility, and I