

to finance is our court system. That is what we want our court costs to finance and we have had vigorous fights and debates in this Legislature to use court costs for exactly that, to finance the court system. Now this amendment, I am not sure exactly how it is going to operate, but Senator Beutler has in effect said the effect of this amendment is to impose an additional cost on people who are in litigation in the divorce context. So I am going to treat this as a court cost amendment, the purpose of which is to simply finance... simply put the money into the general funds, but as Senator Beutler indicated, basically to finance child abuse. Court costs should be there to run the courts. Court costs should not be there to fund child abuse or any other noble and worthy project. Incidentally, it probably shouldn't fund the Law Enforcement Training Program in Grand Island and currently we have some court costs funding the Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island. We have talked about that on the floor. We have never been able to get that one undone. Let's not make another mistake though and add a transactional cost on a certain kind of litigant who decides to go to court to seek some kind of relief...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...to which that litigant is entitled as a matter of law, to which that litigant is entitled. It is wrong. It is a bad policy. We ought not be going down this track on this bill or any other bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: (No response.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, did you wish to speak again?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Will Senator Johnson yield to a question. Senator Johnson, you mentioned \$25 court costs.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What does an attorney in Omaha charge for a divorce? Isn't it usually somewhere...you look at the percentage of the assets of the couple getting the divorce, and if it is Willie Thiesen, the fee is probably going to be a lot more than if it is Marge and Dave Higgins.