

currently underwrites the masters in Lancaster and Douglas County, and other funds he has discretion over as well. Number three, we've been told by Gina Dunning and other persons who will have to implement this system that it is going to be impossible to get the thing up and running by October 1 of next year if we don't enact the bill this year so we'll have the 6 to 18 months to get it implemented. It is certainly conceivable that if we don't pass the bill this year we won't lose \$2.7 million. But I, for one, am not willing to take that risk, Senator Chambers. As you know \$2.2 million of that is aid to dependent children funds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hoagland, you are dealing in speculation. Oh, thank you, you did answer the question that I asked you. That is pure speculation. I wish some of the senators from the rural areas were here because when it becomes clear to them what has happened to their judges in their areas then we are going to have the rural-urban split. You see Douglas and Lancaster County, and maybe Sarpy, currently have a master system. They think there is a possibility there may be a negative impact on those who have those jobs right now. They are not going to put funds into establishing a master system in the other counties. They are going to say your judges are going to take off their robes and cease being judges to hear these cases in the first instance because they've told us that a judge, as a judge, cannot be involved until the appeal level. So what they are going to do in the rural areas and anything not Lancaster, Douglas or Sarpy, is rural, doesn't count, they are going to defrock the judges so that they can take the role of something which is less than a judge. They will call them not a judge in this instance but a master. Those judges, who now have to be law trained, will do the work out there that nonjudges do in Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy. It is demeaning of their position if this is a statewide system. I'm going to call it to the attention of my colleagues out in the hinter lands who are accustomed to having the people in the urban areas, who know far more than people in the rural areas, tell them how their system ought to operate, that they are not going to have these federal funds that make possible these master programs in Lincoln, Omaha and wherever it is in Sarpy County. That is rural to me because it is little. But I would like to ask Senator Hoagland a question, because maybe something I've said is not true and may have misled you. Senator Hoagland, do you know whether or not the master programs that exist in these