

about it a second or two. We had an amendment to LB 325 providing for retirement benefits for state senators. During the course of that debate the senators supporting this bill made comments about the big turnover we have in this body. It is true, we have a big turnover. We have I think ten new individuals this year. We have another nine or ten who have announced that they are not coming back. I was appointed three years ago and I guess in terms of seniority I am already near the middle. What does that have to do with this issue? I think what it has to do with this issue is we don't have what I would refer to as an institutional memory, a memory in the body of why certain things are as they are, referring specifically to why do we have separate juvenile courts in Nebraska? Why do we (inaudible) have separate juvenile courts at all? Why not just run everybody through the same court system? The reason is a number of years ago in the United States we treated juveniles just as we did any other offender. We took them in front of a judge, we made them prove their innocence. If they were not innocent, they were punished. If they were innocent, they were let go. That was not an effective way of dealing with juveniles. We set up a juvenile court system to set up a prescriptive rather than a punitive system, to take a young individual that is having problems, whether they be status offender types of problems or whether they be law violation types of problems, and try to get to the root of what caused that problem and keep that individual from becoming a burden on society, a law violator in future years, an individual who is a bane on society. We attempt to deal with them in the juvenile system in a prescriptive fashion, to give individuals who are trained in dealing with juveniles, judges, probation officers, even prosecutors down in Sarpy County, we don't have the typical cutthroat prosecutors in Sarpy County dealing with juveniles. We have individuals that can work with those offenders and we set up a prescriptive sort of program to try to turn that young person around. I am proud to say Sarpy County has one of the finest juvenile court systems not in Nebraska, but in the nation. I am afraid what we are going to do with this is we are going to say, okay, we will keep the three...the two juvenile justices in Douglas County, we will keep the one juvenile court judge in Lancaster County and the one in Sarpy. Whenever we need any additional help with juveniles though we are just going to find some juvenile judge...or some county judge who has some time to come in and try those cases. The argument was made