

you're next.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. I was pleased to take this bill as a priority, and I want to start off by saying I'm not an expert on judicial matters. I'm not a lawyer. I'm not involved in the court system. But when Senator Beutler showed me the bill, and I read it, and had couple of people look at it for me to be sure I understood it, the logic of it came through. I hope that many of you have gone through what Senator Beutler handed out. And he spoke about this one district, district 16 and 17, having to do with the money involved, if we had done something different in 1980. But to go back to my...the reason I'm speaking right now, I have worked here in the last four sessions to help bring, I guess, the judicial system into the twenty-first century. I voted for the court of appeals, and I think that's a good example of what Senator Landis and Senator Withem and others have been speaking about, making government work better. In the past federal judges go out to North Platte, district court judges go from...some come to Lincoln even, sometimes, to sit on a case for different reasons. So it doesn't seem logical to me that you can't go a little distance for a court case. That part of it does not influence me. I am going to support LB 1059, even though I was lobbied to...and the person that lobbied me smiled when he said, well this is a little unusual, I'm going to ask you not to vote for your priority bill. I said, well yes, that is a little unusual. And I wouldn't have taken it as a priority if I hadn't planned to vote for it. But the other thing, I think we have to consider that as we are in the 1990's, not in the 1890's. And when you talk about the smaller towns in...out in western Nebraska, it does seem like in many ways they're further apart, and yet they are closer together because of transportation. In the early twenties and thirties it was still difficult to get from those cities, the larger city to the smaller town because of the roads weren't good, our transportation system wasn't all that great. A lot of judges, I'm sure, took the train, not the car, because the roads weren't that great. Our society has changed. In the smaller cities and towns there...there was once a society that was mostly professional people, and there would only be one or two. And it was...everyone knew who the judge is, everyone knew who the doctor is. In this day and age we don't always know who the doctor is, or who the judge is when that person walks down the street. We are not that close to this kind of person anymore. So I think it's like school redistricting, we have to give up