

March 31, 1983

LB 272

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 272 offered by the Judiciary Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 14th, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Senator Beutler, would you speak to the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a bill that essentially is designed to save legal expenses for rural Nebraska taxpayers by making the courts more accessible to them. The bill appears to have a whole number of changes but that is basically because three different statutes have been consolidated into one statute, and the two basic changes of the bill, the two big changes in the bill, there are some small ones, would allow a county court to enter orders in other than the county in which the judge happens to be sitting at the particular point in time, and that is in conjunction with clarifying in the statutes the ability of the court in chambers to use telephonic communications to handle certain types of small matters. So in other words, instead of having attorneys travel long distances and charge clients a lot of money for small things, we are trying to encourage the judges to handle them by telephone. It is going to help some situations where, for example, in your single judge districts your judges may be on vacation in Lincoln or down to a football game and something needs to be done immediately, they could call down and have a telephone conference and get it done. There are a whole number of ways in which this bill, we believe, will help make the court system more efficient and save people money. And the committee amendments are largely technical in nature. It makes some technical changes. It allows judges to send postcards instead of notices of judgments and orders which is their usual procedure now and hadn't been in the statutes, and then it simply clarifies that the media guidelines that are in effect will continue to be in effect with regard to any changes made in LB 272. That is about all that the committee amendments do. I move their adoption, Mr. President.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: There are no lights on with respect to the committee amendments. Are there any persons wishing to discuss the committee amendments? In that case, please show your vote accordingly.

CLERK: Senator Johnson voting yes.