

(Start of Belt #13)

where adoption filings are made. Actually, up to right now, we have lawyers who question even an Associate Judge accepting a filing in an adoption case.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well, ya, but you have got any adoption proceeding there. I question the wisdom of that.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Well, the Supreme Court...

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Do you feel there is sufficient...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: The Supreme Court, this matter was taken up with the Supreme Court when they went over this, the proposed changes and Mr. Donlevy stated that the County Judges in meeting..in their meeting felt that there was nothing to be feared. In other words, most of the Associate Judges who would be handling these, and remember now, this is only upon assignment by the duly elected County District Judge. You understand that. They wouldn't have it unless...

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes. No, I understand that.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: That most of the Associate Judges who would now be, under any circumstances, handling these right now, at least, and we could always change the law if we had any abuse, have been and for many, many years County Judges handling these adoptions and they have no fear of it. Now, I grant you that if you had people who are not trained and, of course, we do have training sessions required now, too.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Well, I really have a sincere reluctance to grant that authority to Associate County Judges. I think I will offer...I will offer an amendment to take that out of there. My reason being that very often these adoption proceedings can become quite complicated and I think it is better left completely in the hands of...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: This is certainly your privilege, Senator, and I have no...this is the way we had it originally. The very original intent was to do just what you suggest, I will grant you that.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK. Then, I would offer an amendment to the amendment. Page 5, Line 9, strike Line 9.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Ya.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: The reason for that amendment being that the Associate County Judge, of course, is a man of considerably less expertise than the County Judge, generally, and adoption proceedings...

SENATOR LUEDTKE: An amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Page 5 of the amendment.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Line 17, for the subline.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Line 17, I'm sorry.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Ya. No, it's line 17, but it is subparagraph 9. Any adoption proceedings.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: That would be my amendment. Page 5, Line 17 of the amendment.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Strike that. Just that line is all it would be.

PRESIDENT: Is there need for further discussion of the Cavanaugh amendment to the Committee amendment? All those