

February 12, 1979

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position simply was that they felt (a) the jurisdictional limit should be increased, and (b) it should not be increased beyond \$1,000. That is what the Bar says and the Bar, in a sense, is speaking to that long range planning study. It is for that reason that Senators Beutler and I offer you the amendment to the committee amendment to increase the jurisdictional limit of the small claims court from \$500 to \$1,000. We would ask you to support our amendment to the committee amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, and my esteemed colleagues, Beutler and...I know this gentleman. I have known him...oh, Johnson. No, this is a situation where we had conflicting testimony as to the need to raise the amount, the jurisdictional amount of the small claims court, and that testimony was given at the committee hearing before the introducers of the bill. Now Judge Ryan from Omaha has served as a judge in small claims court. They rotate in Omaha. And he saw no need to raise the amount to the \$2,000 or even to \$1,000, that most of the claims did not exceed the \$500 limit but an increase of \$250 would certainly cover most of them, and he made a very telling observation that neither of the introducers had spent very much time before the court because lawyers cannot represent people in the small claims court. But on the other hand, the judge sat there hearing case after case after case. So it's a matter of weighing experience against good intentions. Now in this particular case, Senator Beutler and Senator Johnson, a compromise of sorts was arrived at. The amount would not be left at \$500 nor would it be raised to the \$2,000 envisioned in the bill's original form nor the \$1,000 which is being attempted now. There was considerable discussion in the committee during executive session about the amount that the jurisdictional amount should be raised to. Now some of the testimony from one or two gentlemen from other parts of Nebraska than Lincoln or Omaha indicated that they like to use the small claims court to threaten their debtors with by saying, if you don't pay off, I am going to take you into small claims court and they said that would cause a person usually to try to make some arrangement to pay. So if the amount were upped, then they could threaten more of their friends and neighbors with this particular court and that is the way they described most of the people they take to small claims court as friends and neighbors. And when questions were asked as to why you would even allow a friend or neighbor even to get a loan when it was felt the friend or neighbor would not pay it back, then the