

February 12, 1979

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necessary.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next one, I would like to, the Chair would like to introduce Karie Keown from Senator Simon's District. She was representative to the Nebraska Girls State from Omaha Burke in 1978 and was Senator to Girls Nation in 1978. She is up here in the North balcony. Would she stand and be recognized? Welcome to your Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, members, since two lawyers actually proposed this amendment and it certainly doesn't serve the purpose of any lawyer to raise the small claims court to \$1,000, I think we certainly should support that kind of compromise. As you know, originally the bill asked for \$2,000. So I hope you'll speed up this process and vote on the \$1,000 amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of this amendment, of Senator Johnson's amendment, because I feel that it is a fair compromise. In today's market, when we have this high inflation, \$250 over the present \$500 does not seem to be great enough and, therefore, I think that \$1,000 is certainly fair. I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question, if he will yield.

PRESIDENT: Would Senator Johnson respond?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I would.

SENATOR HEFNER: When did we establish the \$500 figure?

SENATOR JOHNSON: The small claims court was part of the overall court reform back in 1972. So it would have been established in 1972 and the court system took effect in 1973.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Johnson. So if we go back to 1972, we know that inflation has eaten away, become greater each year and so I would certainly support raising this from \$500 to \$1,000 instead of the \$750.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. Chairman, I call the question.