

amendment. Is there any further discussion now on the committee amendment? Senator Pirsch, do you wish to speak to the motion? Senator Pirsch, your light is on. I wonder if you want to speak to the motion.

SENATOR PIRSCH: That is kind of a left over, I think, from before but I will speak in support of this amendment. The small claims court can be very useful to the private citizen who does not have the means to go to a lawyer, and in my personal experience, \$500 was certainly too low, that part of the loan sometimes is forgiven just to get under that amount in the court. I personally feel that \$2,000 would be reasonable but \$1,000 is certainly a sensible compromise.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol, and this will be your closing because no one else, closing on your committee amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: May I object as a member of the Legislature to the amendment. Okay, I will do it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: I can't stop you.

SENATOR NICHOL: You can only use the claim court ten times in a year, and this applies to individuals as well as corporations or companies and, of course, that appears to be enough for most of us. If you object to going to small claims court, of course you can get an attorney and appeal it and go to a higher court where you may be represented by an attorney. In a small claims court you cannot be represented by an attorney. You have to go yourself. For many people it might be intimidating or the fact that they may be just plain old afraid to go to court even though it is a small claims court because many people, in fact most people, have not been in court before. So they would be intimidated, of course, to either get an attorney or not go represent themselves. We felt, the majority of us felt in the Judiciary Committee that \$750 was enough. Now we deliberated about this and I don't know whether the magic number is \$750 or \$1,000, but we thought at this time \$750 was enough and as was backed up by the testimony as given by Senator Chambers representing the judge from Omaha.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, in answer to some of the statements that have been made with reference to inflation and all, the judge who is the presiding judge of the municipal court in Omaha