

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Let me, Mr. Speaker, just describe briefly what this constitutional amendment is about. You all received in your offices a day or two ago a detailed explanation of this constitutional amendment. What it does basically is it redraws the district lines of the members of the United States...of the Nebraska Supreme Court so that they conform with the Congressional district lines. The House of Delegates of the Nebraska Bar Association which consists of 41 or 43 members statewide has endorsed this unanimously. Basically it is an attempt to take the gerrymandering problem out of the drawing of districts of the Nebraska Supreme Court justices. Under the current constitutional provision, every ten years the Legislature has to redraw the lines. Now if this amendment passes, why the lines of the Supreme Court judges will conform with the lines of the Congressional districts so we won't have to worry about redrawing Supreme Court district lines every ten years and the districts of the Supreme Court justices won't be subject to politics. If you all have any questions about it, I would be happy to answer it. That is the basic explanation for the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to be recognized on the bill?

SENATOR DWORAK: I have a question of Senator Hoagland.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland, do you yield?

SENATOR DWORAK: I guess I wonder why Supreme Court justices need to be even nominated by district. Do they have a constituency per se as a legislator has? Is this a one man one vote principle with the court as it is with the legislator? They are not elected. I guess I just have to get the rationale of altering these districts.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I don't believe they do have to be selected by districts, Senator Dworak. They traditionally have been in the State of Nebraska to ensure representation from every part of the state. Now the United States Supreme Court, of course, there are no requirements that justices come from any particular part of the country. They could all come from New York or Boston or Washington or wherever. Now under this particular constitutional amendment, there would be two justices taken from each of the three Congressional districts so we guarantee for geographical distribution. If they were all to come from the state at large with no districts, why then it is likely that most of the justices would come from Lincoln and Omaha where most of the lawyers