

January 11, 1980

LB 261

It consists of 51 lawyers from across the state. Now, Senator Haberman and others, they are obviously interested in representing the interest of lawyers around the state and the population around the state. Now the House of Delegates of the Bar Association has consistently endorsed this and most recently it endorsed this unanimously, as I understand, at the state meeting the Bar Association had just a few months ago. Now the way the current Supreme Court judicial districts are drawn is there are gerrymandering fingers of districts that go up and take out chunks of various parts of Omaha. The way the situation currently is now is one of six judges comes from Omaha. Now if this constitutional amendment is passed, and as the letter indicates and as the letter explains thoroughly, I would call your attention particularly to the second and the third and fourth paragraphs of the front page of the letter, if this is drawn this will guarantee that we have two justices from each of the three Congressional districts. So it will provide adequate population representation which is Senator Dworak's concern, I believe, and it will also take care of adequate geographical representation which is also the concern of Senator Dworak's. Senator Keyes pointed out it could be much worse, it could be much worse if all the justices of the Supreme Court were taken from the state at large. We could have as many as seven justices from Omaha including the chief. If we divided the state only into two districts, we could have as many as four justices from Omaha. Now the way this will set it up is there will be two associate justices taken from each of the Congressional districts with the chief taken at large. Now there is really not much more I can do to explain this except what I have said and to refer to the letter that should have been passed out to all of you by now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, if there are no other lights on, Senator Hoagland, is your motion to advance the bill?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, it is, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is to advance LB 261 to E & R for review. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I am reluctant to ask for a Call of the House (interruption).

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland, there are 13 excused. That is the problem.