

February 21, 1980

LB 618

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 618, title read. The bill was read on January 9 of this year. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing. It was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by Senator Cullan's Judiciary Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this bill has to do with additional judges, additional district judges across the state. Originally the bill provided for four additional judges. The amendments say that there shall be two additional district judges instead of four and also Senator Kelly requested an additional county judge in the Grand Island area. So the committee amendments do restrict the bill to two additional district judges and one county judge. Mr. Chairman, I move for the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to 618. All those in favor of the amendments vote aye, opposed no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Cullan. I am sorry. Are we ready for Senator Cullan? Okay, Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, looking at the clock, I would like to move this bill before noon and so I will not give a great deal of formal discussion on the bill other than to say that what the bill does as it is currently amended is to add two district judges, one in the 16th Judicial District which consists of five counties, one in the 21st Judicial District which consists of a number of counties in the Columbus area and now a county judge in Hall County. This amendment is supported by the State Bar Association, by the District Judges Association, and a number of other, by the Supreme Court Justice, and a number of other individuals. I think it is clear in looking at the workload of these two district court judges and the county court that additional assistance is needed now to solve some of the problems that they have. I recognize that there is a desire of some people to reorganize the judicial districts. I would contend and think that I can demonstrate that that is not appropriate with respect to these three judgeships because of the geography involved, because of the amount of