

February 21, 1980

LB 618

travel that is necessary in both the 16th and 21st Judicial Districts. The Judiciary Committee advanced this bill after looking and discussing those proposals for reorganization and I think concurred with the position that reorganization is not appropriate with respect to these judicial districts. I will try and respond to your questions. I think the need is justified. I think that the information which I circulated on the floor of the Legislature last week with respect to the 16th Judicial District illustrates that clearly. I think if we are going to maintain a good judiciary in the State of Nebraska, if we are going to maintain a good civil and criminal justice system, then we have to staff it adequately, we have to handle the case-load, we have to meet the changes in population that occur throughout the state. Judge Moran, particularly, I think, in the 16th Judicial District, does a tremendous job handling a very heavy workload, very unique problems and I think the load is to the point now where we need to react to solve a backlog that is being created and we need to solve problems which will occur in the future. So I urge you to advance LB 618. I would be happy to respond to any questions you might have.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol, did you wish to speak on the motion to advance the bill?

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, yes, I did. Just briefly, also because of the time situation, we have looked into this in the past, those of you who know me know that I have not been anxious to add judges nor been anxious to increase the fiscal load on the taxpayers in Nebraska because of judges' salaries but in this instance it does very much appear in looking at the statistics that the judges in these two areas and the county judge in Hall and Howard Counties are overworked. I know personally about the one out in the northwest corner of the state and I understand that these others are needed. If at such time we redistrict, then is the time to do it and I am sure the judges will work with us. So I do encourage your support of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Before we proceed, in the North balcony, it is my privilege to present 8 seniors from the Business Law class at Valley High School, Valley, Nebraska. The teacher is Melodee Landis who is Senator Landis' wife. Will you folks please stand so we may welcome you to the Unicameral? Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: I call for the question.

7272