

March 4, 1980

LB 82

We are talking about improper conduct of judges, things that can bring the judiciary into disrepute. How many of you would like to go before a judge who had to be taken off the bench for six months for misconduct? That is the purpose of the amendment, not to tie the hands of the commission but to enhance the image of the judiciary by compelling this commission if it finds a judge to have committed a serious offense, not to be merely suspended but to be removed and that is the purpose of the amendment and I ask that you adopt it.

PRESIDENT: The question then is the adoption of the Chambers amendment on LB 82. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Chambers, it is moving... let it go...all right, record the vote.

CLERK: 8 ayes, 12 nays on the adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Before we take up the next matter the Chair would like to introduce some guests from Senator Warner's district, some 24 first grade students from General Arnold school here in Lincoln, Mr. Kenny Harman and Miss Linda Hansen. They are up here in the North balcony. Would they wave to us and be recognized. Welcome to your Legislature. Mr. Clerk, is there anything further?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I find myself like Senator Lewis, in a peculiar position that not only am I agreeing with attorneys but I am defending judges and I assure you I will change my stripes on Senator Cullan's bill. However, this bill has been in committee for about a year and a half. We had two hearings on it. It advanced from committee unanimously after the second hearing and only after extensive revision. The Bar Association came to us with revisions over the summer. We put in a lot of hours on it. Then we went back to them with our revisions and our revisions were much more...it went much further than theirs and I think the Bar Association in most instances took our revisions as opposed to theirs. We took that extra step and so did they. I think we have got a good bill here. I think it opens up that process. The bill didn't have any opposition and I would move that the bill be advanced to E & R.