

March 4, 1980

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PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner. It wasn't closing, Senator Reutzel. Now we are on the bill itself. I did not recognize it for closing, but if you want to have another closing we will give you a chance. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of this bill as amended now. The Constitutional Revision Committee did a lot of work on this bill. Also we held two hearings. We had a hearing last year and we held it over until this year so that we could get some of the amendments that we thought would be workable. We heard a lot of testimony on this bill. There have been many hours of work and so I would urge your support of this bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, perhaps I received more complaints about the things that public officials do than most of you and if any of you doubt this, I would like you to come to my office and see some of the complaints people bring against judges, some valid or seeming to be valid if they could be sustained, others that are just outraged because the decision went contrary to the way the person wanted it to go which is not a valid complaint but nevertheless we are talking about how the public perceives judges and if the Legislature pushes this bill through in its present form, I am sure...well I am not sure it can get thirty votes which it needs, but remember it is going to have to surmount the hurdle of voting by the public and I think their reaction might not be clear in terms of what it is saying other than that they feel judges are not being held accountable for the things that they do, that the Legislature has enacted a bill in complicity with the Bar Association which protects judges in a way that other citizens are not. I have just heard them saying that the amendment that I offered which said that judges should be removed if they plead guilty to a felony was adopted mistakenly because other people thought that they were voting on a motion to cease debate although I didn't make a motion to cease debate. I didn't talk about ceasing debate. I talked about the amendment but nevertheless that is the kind of discussion we have had this morning. It is the kind of attention that has been paid to the bill. So if it moves on, Senator Reutzel, and even if it gets thirty votes, I don't think that it will fare too well in front of the public and if it fails, then we will be stuck with the same poor system that we have now. While we have the

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