

March 5, 1980

LB 618

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel to close on his motion.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, Senator Beutler laid out the problem very eloquently. We do have a problem, no one doubts, in certain districts but I think the proper approach is not to piecemeal a solution together. I think the proper approach is to wait until the 1980 census is completed and then redistrict. Now Senator Beutler brought up a good point in that other judges can go over and help the workload in a particular district, if it is requested. To my knowledge Judge Moran has not requested this. Judge Moran is a fine person. He is a very hard worker. He has an exceptional record. No one is going to quibble with that but I think the important thing again is not to piecemeal this together. The proper solution would be to wait one year, less than a year, come back with a redistricting bill to even the workload out, to help those areas which are overworked at the present time. And we don't even have a fiscal note on this. It has been changed. We don't have an updated fiscal note. I would guess about \$150,000, ball park figure, and why spend \$150,000 when we have the means to bring in a retired judge and take up some of the overload. Now one of the districts being added to, and the figures I am going to use are 1978 statistics because the 1979 statistics were not completed when we put this together, so one of the districts that we are adding to under this bill, the 1978 case load is 138 cases less than in 1977. It is 76 cases less than in 1976. It is 98 cases less than in 1975 and it is even less than the caseload for that district in 1974. In the same year in the other district, the caseload is only 29 cases more than in 1975 but yet we have got to have some relief for these areas. Fifteen of the twenty-one judicial districts, fifteen out of the twenty-one, if this bill is passed, are going to have a higher caseload, many times by more than 253, 250 to 300 more cases than the districts that we are adding to. Fifteen of the twenty-one, seventy-five percent of the districts are going to have a higher workload but we are not giving relief to them. Senator Barrett and Senator Haberman, Senator Lamb and Senator Rumery, you presently have a district with a greater workload than District 21 or District 16 now, but after the bill is passed you are

7846