

March 5, 1980

LB 618

judge in the 16th Judicial District. When they talk about redistricting, I would hope that you would take a careful look at the maps that we distributed when this bill was on General File. I am not sure that you are going to gain anything by redistricting. How much larger can you make the 16th Judicial District? How much further are you going to have judges drive? How efficient is it to put those people in cars and have them on the road all the time? I think this is the answer. When I was approached with the problem, I carefully looked at redistricting and for these two judicial districts I simply think it isn't appropriate. That doesn't mean redistricting won't solve other problems we have, specifically the ones that Senator Beutler mentioned. Redistricting may be a viable solution to the problems in Omaha and the problems in Lincoln and that is why the Judiciary Committee in its wisdom took those judicial districts out of this bill. So I think they have left in the essential portions. I think the Judiciary Committee and the Bar Association and the Judges Association will now over the interim period take a serious look at redistricting. I support that and I hope that they do come in with the appropriate changes but in these areas it simply isn't an appropriate answer. I think now is the time to act and I would hope that you would adopt the amendments or that you would, excuse me, advance the bill and that you would also keep in mind the fact that the one thing that Senator Reutzel didn't mention and that is that this is a rural state and one judge can not be in five or six or seven different court houses at the same time. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to speak? Senator Vickers, did you wish to speak on the motion to advance?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I do, Mr. President. Mr. President and fellow members, I rise to support LB 618. As Senator Cullan so aptly pointed out, redistricting is not exactly the answer in many portions of the State of Nebraska. The district that I happen to be representing or the majority of my district, the 14th District, has eight counties involved. The judge in that district spends a good amount of time on the road plus the fact that some of the areas of that district, even though redistricting to some people might make more sense, the people are more closely associated with the area that they are now represented by, and to separate them into another district would be unfair to them, not only for distance that they would have to then go, to travel, but also the past history and the past cor-