

March 5, 1980

LB 618

relation they have with the district they are now in. District 14 originally was in LB 618 and quite frankly I visited with the judge, Judge Hendrix, and he indicated to me that the workload, he was still able to handle it but the workload was getting extremely heavy and at some point in time he might have to have some help also, but I do sympathize with Senator Cullan and the problem that he is faced with in his district and I would urge the body's adoption and support of LB 618.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you wish to be recognized on the motion to advance?

SENATOR KELLY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and rather hurriedly I would like to point out a little bit about the county judge that is involved in LB 618 which is Howard County and Hall County in central Nebraska, which would be the county district court, District 11. Recognizing that numbers are hard to follow and statistics are hard to do but please just pay just a little bit of attention as I would state that per judge in Lincoln, per county judge, the caseload is 2800, in Omaha the caseload per judge, county judge, 6400, in Hastings, 9000, in Grand Island, 16000 and the closest county judge as a workload in Nebraska would be in North Platte where there is 13000. The comparison between Hall County and Lincoln County, between those district's county judges, please note that the county court handles traffic tickets and note that the great majority of the business in the county court in Lincoln County out at North Platte in that district is traffic tickets. Example, in Hall County, there is 25 miles of Interstate 80. In the North Platte county district court, I-80, there is 136 miles of interstate, 136 miles of speeders going into that county court which is the big part of their volume. We need a judge and we need a county judge in our county very badly and we need it now. Redistricting of judges in my eight years experience in this Legislature is a continuous thing. Those districts that are in trouble come to the Legislature for relief and that is what this is. We are in trouble and we are asking for relief and totally expect everybody to take a look at redistricting and support it but that is not going to get us out of trouble. Please support LB 618.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, I listened with interest to what Senator Kelly had to say. As near as I can tell, Hall County is full of criminals and crooks.