

go ahead and vote the thing down." I live 400 miles from Lincoln and I could care less about what happens in Lincoln but I do care about this judge in Lancaster County and I think we need it. I think we should support the bill and give it to them. Simply because we, the Legislature, do not shoulder our responsibility and do the redistricting which is our responsibility, not the judges, to use that as a club over their heads and say, "Until you redistrict, we are not going to give you another judge." It is we who do the redistricting. Certainly we could use the help of the judges and they have been cooperating and giving us information along that line but I think it is our responsibility to handle the redistricting as soon as possible, but until such time as we do that, I think we are negligent in our duty if we don't give Lancaster County that additional judge.

SENATOR CLARK: Do you withdraw that?

SENATOR NICHOL: I think Senator Marsh or someone can talk and I will withdraw it when people are through talking.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Can we afford the risk of not passing the bill this year? There is a strong possibility that some of the cases in Lancaster County will be dismissed because of the court's inability due to caseload to try cases within the six months period. You have had statistical information shared with you as this was going across the Legislative Board. At the end of December there were 198 felony cases to be disposed of in the district court here. I trust you all are aware that court cases having to do with the State of Nebraska are filed in Lancaster County for this is the seat of state government as well as the county. As of February 1 there were 211 felony cases in spite of the diligent hard work of those Senators who currently are there. The computation showing 27 cases over three months old, we are certain that the rate at which cases are being added, and these are cases for robbery, murder, which is first degree murder, robbery and assault, sexual assault. Do you want the responsibility on your conscience that any one of these individuals may be released without trial? Can you answer to your constituents if our criminal docket breaks down before the next session? How do you answer if one of these persons is set free just because we in Lancaster County don't have the judges to try the cases? Any redistricting plan is going to show the need for another judge in Lancaster County. Why run the risk that delay will allow people charged with crimes to avoid trial?