

April 16, 1982

LB 488

Select File for a specific amendment, that amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator VonMinden.

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, little did I realize when I came down here two years ago that I would be attempting to kill a bill on Final Reading. After I came down here I thought what a great process we have. All the bills go to committee first and they go through there up or down. They go through two more readings and then the Final Reading, but a great part of this bill did not go through our legal process and that is a raise for the judges' salaries. Just to refresh you a little bit how that came about, it was heard in the Judiciary Committee. They testified on it. We decided that it shouldn't be moved on. We killed the bill six to nothing. That is when Bell Telephone made a big night the next two days with all the powerful judges getting on the phone and phoning up everybody and saying we should reconsider. Monday morning we reconsidered under the south balcony over here. I have nothing against that but I will have something against several of the other senators not in the committee that were standing six feet away urging us to reconsider. Get it on the floor, they said, and vote it up or down, which to me is the wrong process to do. After we did finally reconsider and get it up, it came on the floor then and several times different senators in the General File we could not move it. So then later on it was two days ago different senators, some of my good conservative Republicans, excuse me conservatives, decided they wanted to attach that one major bill to another major bill. Now I won't object to that. I think perhaps some bills need to be put onto other bills that are bills that will help the State of Nebraska or perhaps help a big segment of society. But this help here was for a 107 judges. I don't think it went through the legal process the way we proceed with our bills. I am objecting to that. I don't know if all you people know for sure what Supreme Court judges get. Taking out of the Blue Book this morning, they get \$48,315. The district court judges, anything over 150,000 population, get \$45,882. The rest get \$44,382. The county judges, over 100,000, get \$41,517. Those counties are Cass, Sarpy, Otoe, Douglas and Lancaster. The other county judges get \$35,955. Now I say to you that is not a bad salary. A Supreme Court judge getting \$48,000, he would have to at least make \$90,000 to compensate for the \$48,000. If he was an attorney down town he would have to have at least two secretaries for perhaps

10968