

county judges may, under current law, not have authority to the degree they would be granted under LB 146, I don't think that is correct. I think they are able and competent in terms of being able to handle this additional category of cases. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, I would call for you but Senator Hefner has his light on, would you like to have him precede you? Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I have a question of Senator Hoagland, if he will yield. I think the Judiciary Committee held a public hearing and I see there was quite a few opponents. There was the Nebraska District Judges Association opposed it, the Nebraska Bar Association of this particular district. What was their thoughts in opposing this bill?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Now, Senator Hefner, let me say initially that we had a consolidated hearing on LB 146 with another bill, a judicial redistricting bill, and I ask Senator Beutler to listen to what I am saying. I am not a hundred percent sure that Judge Rist, for instance, opposed LB 146, although I could certainly be mistaken about that. I don't believe Noyes Rogers from Columbus opposed LB 146 but I could be mistaken about that. We did hear from a couple of county judges that they are a little concerned about this additional workload because of the extent to which they...some of them currently feel filled up with their current dockets. But let me defer the rest of the question to Senator Beutler, if I might, Senator Hefner...

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, that would...

SENATOR HOAGLAND: ...if he would recall...

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, that certainly would be fine. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hefner, I think there are a whole lot of things flying around out there and there is no uniform opinion except the lawyers in western Nebraska I think fairly uniformly wanted this because that was the main thing we heard about when we took the Judiciary Committee around. But some of the district judges are in favor of it, some of them are not in favor of it because they don't want