

judge and has shared the work load evenly with the other two judges down there. They have had three judges effectively although one is an associate judge appointed by the other judges under their statutory powers. Okay, last year we took away that statutory power to appoint an associate judge. Okay? At the same time we had a bill to appoint a third juvenile court judge, but that was vetoed by the Governor. So what happened last year was that we took away their power to appoint an associate judge, but we didn't give them a new judge. So the associate judge who was there continued to work though until just a few weeks ago and that judge by the name of Pat Mullen was just appointed district judge in Douglas County. So now they have lost their associate judge because he is a district judge. Under the law as we have changed it, they cannot appoint a new associate judge so unless we get 171 advanced and passed as fast as we can, we will force the Douglas County Juvenile Court to handle their work load with two judges instead of three and effectively take a judge away from them. So that legally is the situation. Now if the bill passes, we would go through the regular process, that is there would be a nominating committee, different people would apply for the judge, he would be appointed just like...he or she would be appointed just like any other judge were appointed under the process. Nothing changes in that respect. But I just wanted to give you first of all, a clear idea of where we stand legally in this and the implications of not advancing 171 and with that, I will let Senator Bernice Labeledz tell you a little bit about the court's work load and what is actually happening down there. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I talked to Judge Moylan and Judge Buckley in Omaha in the last few days and told them to send me some statistics as to the number of cases they've been handling and what type of cases because as Senator Beutler explained, we will no longer have an associate judge and at the present time we have three judges handling these cases and yet there was a holdover you wouldn't believe at the end of the year. The types of hearings that they hear are arraignments and rearraignments, adjudications, dispositions, detentions, neglect of children, delinquency, miscellaneous emergency cases and divorce cases. There is a total of nine different types of hearings and a neglect or a dependency petition