

distributed to you as amendment 1251 and I think it would make sense, Mr. President, at this time, rather than describing the committee amendments, to allow Senator Beutler, after I make a couple of more introductory comments, to describe his amendments to the committee amendments...

PRESIDENT: Very well.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: ...which he will be asking us to adopt, I'm sure, shortly.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Please curb your conversational level, please. Senator Hoagland, go ahead.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: As I indicated before, the basic thrust of the bill is to deal with the problem of having a number of single judge districts in certain parts of the state or having, whether they are single judge districts or multiple judge districts, too many districts for the judicial system to be able to efficiently distribute the caseload among judges and among districts. As a result of the fact we have as many judicial districts as we do, there are a number of judges that are underworked and a number of judges that are overworked. There is insufficient flexibility in the system to allow us to even up the workloads of the judges to the extent that we need to because the trial court system is fragmented into so many separate judicial districts. Senator Beutler's amendments to the committee amendments set up a procedure for dealing with that issue and with your permission, Mr. President, I will allow Senator Beutler to explain his amendments, number 1251.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Hoagland. Senator Beutler, before you start let me get an introduction out of the way here. Senator Hefner has guests in the north balcony, 35 seventh and eighth graders from West Catholic Elementary School in Fordyce, Nebraska. If you'd stand we'd recognize you and welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. The Clerk wants to clarify a matter.

CLERK: Senator Hoagland, Senator, you had an amendment earlier. I just wanted to clarify that...are you withdrawing yours or...? You want to withdraw that one? All right. Mr. President, Senator Beutler's amendment is found on page 1978 of the Journal.