

another group to do what the Legislature should be doing. The whole basis of the problem in the rural areas is that people do not realize the problems brought on by distances. You have judges that have to travel around. This could lead to huge, huge areas that judges have to move about within, within those areas. And if the Legislature does not have any jurisdiction under it, as called for in the Beutler amendment, then we have given away one more of our duties in my opinion. We have given it to a commission over which we have no control and that if we don't like it, we don't have any recourse. I think it's a bad bill. I have an amendment up there which would make this new commission advisory. I also have a motion up there to kill the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would interrupt debate to announce that Senator Nichol, our Speaker, has a couple of guests under the south balcony. He'd like to introduce to us Mr. Joe Robertson of Scottsbluff and Mr. John Zimmer III of Lincoln. If you'd stand up, thank you for coming. The Chair recognizes Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I rise to concur with the statements already made by my colleague, Senator Howard Lamb, on this issue. I know that Senator Beutler has spent an awful lot of time working on a proposal that would be acceptable to the members of this body and also to the Bar Association and the judges and I'm certain he's tried to work out a plan that he feels is fair and justifiable, but in visiting with some attorneys in my area, some judges in my particular area and I think that goes for western Nebraska as a whole, there's a great deal of concern about the distances that Senator Lamb has already spoken. I think that we need to consider this very carefully because it will have a significant, I think, ramification upon agriculture and upon agricultural areas in our state especially rural areas of our state. I'm not aware of any movement that is being brought up from the groundswell of the attorneys or the judges in western Nebraska or central Nebraska that is calling or urging us to reform the current system we have. I just got off the phone with one of my close friends who is an attorney and in Clay County they are very happy with the performance of their judges in their particular area and as a whole the County Bar Association is opposed to any form of redistricting and the only question I have for Senator Beutler, if he would yield to a question would be, was their input brought into this bill from