

in the amendment in the amended version. I think under our present law I believe we have something like 21 districts and the question of judicial districts and the number of judges in each of those districts is presently controlled by the Legislature. I think this is fine. I think that this is the way it should be. I think it is working very well. I'm not aware of any real compelling reason why this bill should be advanced because it is a wholesale transfer of power, I believe, from this Legislature to the judiciary and this bothers me a little. We have now a commission in LB 516 of nine members, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, an additional member of the court, a district judge, a county judge, three Bar Association members and two members of the public chosen by the Governor. I don't even suggest that the commission might or would act capriciously in this matter in a determination, but it seems to me that the citizens of this state would be better served by their elected members of this Legislature. The bill appears, to me at least, to be in response to perhaps an Omaha-Lincoln problem. As Senator Johnson has suggested I'm not aware of any problem in greater Nebraska. As a matter of fact the district courts in greater Nebraska I think apparently are operating quite efficiently and I think they're very responsive to the public interest, that is their hearings are proceeding through their courts in a very judicious manner. So again, if this is an Omaha-Lincoln problem, and I'm just guessing, perhaps we should tailor it otherwise to address that particular problem, but I see no problem in greater Nebraska. I think the system is working well. I cannot support the bill at this point. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, I have you next down because your light went off, then went on again, but there are about six other speakers. Do you want them to go ahead of you and then you comment after some of these other speakers?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's all right, fine.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, caprice can only be used to describe the present system, not the suggested system of 516. Imagine yourself with 100 workers all sent out to do the same job. They work side by side from each other, but you feed them a workload to do, perhaps it's two assembly lines one right next to the other