

not see any reason to change our judicial districts. Senator Hoagland says we're going to reduce the amount of judges we have, hogwash. We're not going to do away with any judges, Senator Hoagland. You know that. We're not going to cut the budget. You know that. We're going to keep increasing. We're going to keep increasing the judges salary and you'd be the first one to support that. I don't see any reason for it at the present time. The judges tell me in northeast Nebraska that they help one another out. If one judge becomes overloaded in one district they call a judge from another district that perhaps doesn't have that many cases. Also they tell me that they don't know how much time they are going to spend on a case so it's pretty hard to program and say, well, we're going to address X amount of cases this week, X amount of cases next week or we can handle so many cases in a month. I understand that you can't do that in these cases and so I just say that this is a little premature. I just hate to see us drop down to three judicial districts. I think that we in the rural area and the sparsely populated areas would be shafted. I think too much power is being concentrated in the Omaha and Lincoln area. Therefore, I would urge you to oppose the Beutler amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beyer.

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I guess I question a little bit about how come they left Sarpy County out left them in the same...put them all into one. We're one of the faster growing counties. We've got some problems. We're in that top 100 percent or above that 100 percent figure as far as caseload and I agree, there are some districts that are way under. I guess I can't fully understand how Senator Beutler proposes to equalize that load. I'm a little leery of giving up the legislative oversight of that. I believe some of those districts could be combined a little bit. I think it was suggested three or four years ago when I was on the Judiciary Committee where they could take and add to some of those lower districts by giving them another county. So I guess at this time I will withhold my support of the bill even though I know there is some good parts in it till I can see how we will adjust those loads in those particular areas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, then Senator Hartnett.