

kind of the edges of the state down onto the Platte Valley, especially with the interstate coming in, and so those areas that are tending to get overworked tend to be the areas along the Platte Valley, Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Grand Island, Kearney, North Platte, and the areas that lie up at the top part of the state, Holt County, Keya Paha, and down at the bottom part of the state, Richardson County, in particular, and Pawnee County where population has been dramatically decreased, they have judges that are tremendously underworked. The population has...

PRESIDENT: Senators...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Have I taken too much of your time, Jackie?

SENATOR SMITH: Her time has expired.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, then if you look under Section 6 of the Beutler amendment, there are three or four other criteria that...

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, do you want another shot at this?

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President, and members.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR LAMB: I would just like to comment on some of the questions that Senator Higgins and Senator Jackie Smith talked about and my reply to that is that it can be handled under the present situation. The Legislature can change those judicial districts to reflect the workloads. The committee, the Judiciary Committee under Senator Hoagland can come in here with a bill. They make a study of what the workloads are. If there is a problem out there, we can do it right now. The Legislature has control, does exactly what this commission would do as proposed by Senator Beutler, and it is not necessary to just hire a new judge or establish a new judgeship. You can move them around. You can change the judicial districts now but the Legislature would do it rather than a commission over which the Legislature will have no control.

PRESIDENT: All right, now then Senator Goll.