

case, I would ask you to take a look at the population statistics in Exhibit G, pages 1 and 2 and Exhibit 8. Those statistics demonstrate that ever since the turn of the century, 1900, population has been shifting dramatically in this state and yet our judicial system hasn't kept pace with those particular changes. Of particular interest, I think, would be the graph at Exhibit H which shows you where the population increase has been in the last ten-year period and that population situation shows a dramatic increase along the Platte Valley in population in the period 1970 and 1980. And so what is happening is that the population and, therefore, and there is a rough correlation between population and caseload, the caseloads have been increasing in certain areas and decreasing in others and if you will look at the judicial statistics, you will see that that is certainly so. As I mentioned to you the other day, Richardson County, Pawnee County, that very southeast corner of the state...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the judge is and remains seriously underworked. The population graph at Exhibit H, page 2, I hope you will pay particular attention to because it breaks it down by judicial district, and you will see that in some judicial districts over the last ten-year period, in some judicial districts over the last ten-year period there has been a 20 percent increase in population and in others there have been decreases in population up to 11 percent. That is just in a ten-year period we have had these dramatic shifts in population and yet our judicial system doesn't change to reflect we're shifting workloads pursuant to that shifting population. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I like the Lamb amendment. Without the amendment, it occurs to me that this 9-person commission is going to have absolute and total power in the assignment of judges, the changing of judicial districts and whatever else might occur to them. And I can just envision one of these hearings on workloads or caseloads in which the public probably won't show up because they are not interested or don't understand the situation. The attorneys probably will be unable to show up because they are still trying to make a living.