

years differences that have occurred and a system that is too inflexible to meet the change that has brought us to the point that we are considering LB 516. If we are going to have a situation that is stable and the status quo that continues, there is not a need to make a change. But change must be looked at, it must be considered when we have a situation today different than a situation that we had last year and the year before and a decade ago and before that. We must recognize that an adjustment is called for now. I am a layman. I am not an attorney and I think that it is important that somebody stand up as a layman to say the judicial system obviously must be as efficient as other governmental operations. It is not unfair to say our judicial system must recognize the tight budget situation that we are in. And for those of you who call yourselves fiscal conservatives, if ever there was a need to actually carry out what that term calls for, it is in the bill like LB 516. To be fiscally conservative means to fund those programs at an appropriate level as efficiently and effectively as possible and to continue the present system without recognizing the inefficiencies isn't fiscally conservative. It is fiscally irresponsible. It is clear that some judges have a much higher caseload, much heavier work load than other judges and to have a situation where they are all paid the same with the difference as wide as it is now in work load is not a fair situation. We are not recognizing the need to make an adjustment. Instead, I have been here now seven years and have seen two different efforts which have increased our judges by three, from forty-five to forty-eight in our district court system, yet we haven't had that significant an increase in district court filings. We need to recognize the need for an adjustment. It may be difficult in some of your districts to make the change, but for the overall good of the state I think Senator Beutler has brought a good piece of legislation that we ought to consider with open minds and an ability to see the need as I think it exists to make an adjustment now that is long overdue in our judicial district court system.

PRESIDENT: Senator Elroy Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I support the kill motion. I think it is a duty of the Legislature to retain control of our judicial districts, especially the district courts and the county courts. I