

Senator, I have Request 1408 in front of me.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, when we moved to adopt the committee amendments last time around, you will recall that there were 11 members of the Legislature absent at that particular point in time. And you will recall that we are now with the green copy of the bill and the green copy of the bill does not include compromises that were made with the Bar Association or individual members of the bar who objected to the plan and individual judges. So the green copy of the bill, it doesn't contain the commission idea. It doesn't contain basically the three district idea. It doesn't contain, in essence, the best thought of the Judiciary Committee on the whole subject. So what I am asking you to adopt now is essentially the committee amendments. There have been a couple of small technical changes made but I am not playing games with you. I am asking you to adopt the plan that has been worked out as best one can be worked out in this particular situation. There are always going to be a lot of judges when you are in this kind of a situation who are underworked and who do not want to change their situation. There is always going to be resistance to this kind of a bill. But I hope you will take a look at the state as a whole and what is to the benefit of the taxpayers of the state as a whole. Now there has been much discussion this morning suddenly about caseloads and it was suggested to you that I was wrong about caseloads. Let me tell you what they are doing to you on caseloads. They are taking one set of the courts, the district courts, and saying that that has increased and, therefore, I am wrong about caseloads. But I want to bring you up to date on caseloads. My figures didn't have the '84 figures, but the '84 figures don't change anything. If you add the county court cases to the district court cases and include 1984 to the six years of figures I gave you, 1978 through 1983, you will still see that the caseloads have actually decreased, decreased as between 1978 and the present date looking at the whole court system, the county court and the district courts. They are distorting statistics for you. They want to pick out one set of courts and say, hey, look, they have increased in this set. But we are talking about the whole court system. In 1978 there were 305,000 filings, 305,000 filings in the county and district courts. Seven years later in 1984 there