

for greater flexibility in dealing with varying work loads in different parts of the state, I object to the amendment which was adopted on the basis that it is unbalanced geographically. It retains Lancaster and Douglas Counties as separate judicial districts while consolidating all of the other 91 counties in the state into a massive third judicial district. This means that judges in Lancaster and Douglas Counties will never be able to travel to a neighboring county to help with the work load. Lancaster County is currently served by six district court judges and Douglas County by 12 district court judges. The rest of the state, I point out to you, the rest of this state has 30 judgeships for the remaining 90 counties. It is logical that Lancaster and Douglas Counties be made part of larger judicial districts so the judges in these districts can assist in neighboring counties as the need arises or conversely judges from neighboring counties can come into Lincoln or Omaha if the need arises. Furthermore, the administrative burden will be much greater for a massive 91 county district than for a single county districts of Lancaster and Douglas Counties. The amendment which is being proposed here retains the concept of three judicial districts but divides the state vertically, in western, a central and an eastern district. I have had the Pages distribute the map of the proposed districts. It places Lancaster County in the central district and Douglas County in the eastern district. The boundaries of these three proposed districts follow boundary lines already established, thereby facilitating the transition into this system. As in the committee amendment adopted, the existing judicial districts are designated as election districts. The proposed amendment will allow for increased flexibility in dealing with varying work loads while establishing by more equitable geographical boundaries for the three districts...judicial districts. The burden of travel from county to county will be more fairly shared by my district court judges' map and access as Senator Smith was expressing concern, the access will be much better enhanced for the citizens of our state. I urge your support for this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would interrupt debate to announce that Senator Hefner has guests in the south balcony. They are 20 sixth, seventh and eighth graders from Zion Lutheran School in Plainview, and teacher. Thank you for coming down to visit your Nebraska Legislature. If you would stand, we