

a Governor's veto. I can't recall ever doing that and it bothers me that I have to even support it today, but here I am again talking about children. And let me tell you some of the hearings that are held by the juvenile court judges. First of all, we have the detention hearing, and these sometimes, if continued, take one and a half to a full day, and as Senator Goodrich said, imagine this, in 1984 they had 5,012 hearings and they had three judges at that time. They had two judges and an associate judge taking care of 5,012 hearings, and if you recall, the Governor appointed Pat Mullen to a district judge a few months ago so now they are using only two judges, and each year as the statistics show, there have been more hearings than the year before. So if they had 5,012 in 1984, how are they going to handle that with two judges when they barely made it with three? So I am asking you to override the veto. They have also the disposition hearings and these hearings take considerable more time if there are several children involved in one case, and the children require placement in several different places depending on their individual needs, and each case must be reviewed twice a year. So you not only have the hearing, but you also have the reviews that have to be done at least twice a year. And more hearings are needed if a child is not happy in a placement and it runs away or if a child has special needs from time to time, such as a need for mental evaluation, then that takes another hearing. In addition to the 542 neglect cases that they had in 1984, the county attorney filed against 825 delinquency status offenders, and bringing the total of the number of children being handled by this court for 1984 to 1,367. Now I can see and probably would never vote for an override for any other veto other than when it involves children and especially when they are children in need and the cases are delayed month after month after month. Remember, we had three judges. We are down to two. We had 5,012 cases last year and three judges could hardly handle it. The carryover was tremendous. The children were not being treated or counseled or the parents or the foster care parents. I think that we would be delinquent in our duties to say that a third juvenile court judge in the largest city in the State of Nebraska is not needed. I ask for your support of the override.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please, then Senator Warner.