

judge in that area?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: No, we would still have at least one county judge. We would still have at least one district judge as a minimum, but we might not have two or three, if it is not necessary to have two or three. Do you see what I mean?

SENATOR SIECK: And that is all written in that bill so that is assured.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: That is right, but this bill sets up a commission, a commission of a number of members that are selected by various entities, to make those decisions.

SENATOR SIECK: Okay, thank you. I am still going to listen to the debate here to see whether I am going to support it but we will listen.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, please, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, I have been involved in this issue the last four years since I have been down here serving on the Judiciary Committee, and each year that we have discussed the issue, there has been a great deal of controversy generated by constituencies in greater Nebraska, as well as judges in greater Nebraska, and their concern has always primarily been with the changing of the judicial districts, and the bill as it originally came out, LB 516, it did combine judicial districts from 21 to 10, but at this time with the amendment, it does keep the 21 judicial districts intact and provides for a normal filling or not filling of vacancies as a vacancy becomes due. I think Senator Hoagland should be commended in working towards a compromise to this very difficult problem. I think that we all realize that there are some problems in certain areas of the state with caseloads not being quite what they should be for each particular judge, and I feel that this is a bill that everyone can be happy with, and in addition to that, probably more important, I think it is going to save the taxpayers a little bit of money by requiring that each judge have a sufficient caseload for his particular district. So with that, I would urge you to adopt the amendment and pass on LB 516 to Final Reading. Thank you.