

juvenile court judges in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy County. So with that, Mr. President, I would urge that the amendment to LB 516 proposed by Senator Johnson not be advanced or not be attached to LB 516 which I feel is a pretty good bill right now and I plan to support, but with the amendment, I will not be able to support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, please, then Senator Smith.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: This is a good amendment, colleagues, this really needs to be done. Now let me explain to you why this needs to be done. You will recall that Governor Kerrey now has twice vetoed bills that we have passed appropriating about \$100,000 for a third juvenile judge in Omaha. We have sent that bill to him twice and he has vetoed it twice, and he has vetoed it, I think, for some pretty good reasons, and I think he has vetoed it because from his perspective the case statistics simply don't show the need for a third juvenile judge, and because a third juvenile judge costs 90 to a 100 thousand dollars to have. Now there is an argument over whether the caseload statistics justify it. We have some statistics from Omaha that show the judges are way behind in processing juvenile cases. Now what this amendment will do is this amendment is a very clean and neat way of solving the problem in Omaha because it allows the Chief Justice, it allows the Supreme Court to take one of the 11 county judges, send them over to the juvenile court for an afternoon a week, or for a day a week and take some of that caseload off of the juvenile judges so the juvenile cases can be processed promptly in Omaha. We have some horror stories in Omaha, ladies and gentlemen. We have stories of kids that are taken out of homes and put in temporary foster care and are left there for weeks and weeks before they have a full trial on the merits before a judge in Omaha. Understand what that means, a child is taken out of a home without his permission, without the parents permission, put in temporary foster care, and weeks and weeks can transpire before a judicial official takes a close look at whether that needs to be done or not. Now this is a nifty, cost-savings way of taking care of the problem. We have 11 county judges in Omaha. A lot of them have slack time from time to time. We can send one of them over for a half a day or a day to take some of this excess caseload over. Now this is not a new concept. Under this section