

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Smith.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You have three minutes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senators, I just want you to know I have just called the juvenile court judge in Omaha and I talked to Juvenile Court Judge Colleen Buckley, told her about this bill, the various amendments going on. Judge Buckley said that she, speaking for the other juvenile court judge, and she says the county attorneys and the public defenders feel the same way, do not want a county judge to be named a temporary or...juvenile court judge moved over. They believe that it is in the best interest of these juveniles that come before them to be followed by the same judges rather than to have them rotating. Evidently, when these kids get into trouble, sometimes they arrange it that they go back before the same judge that may have heard their case the first time and the second time. So I wanted to clear that matter up. I don't know how any of you feel about it. All I know is if a juvenile court judge tells me they don't want the county judges helping them with their caseload, they evidently don't feel the need for it, and it makes sense to me if these kids that go before juvenile court have strictly juvenile court judges that are permanently there following their cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator Smith.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, please. We are on the Abboud amendment to your amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well, it is my understanding that Chris, that Senator Abboud is making a modification to his amendment. Now I can support the amendment without the modification but the modification I think is more drastic than I care to support. So I guess if the modification to the amendment is offered, then I simply would advise a vote against the amendment. But I guess I might as well just put it out on the table and talk about...talk about it. What is "it"? It is the fact that the State of Nebraska for three years in a row now has been asked to spend new money for a third juvenile court judge in Douglas County, Nebraska, has appropriated the money to do that, on occasion has had the bill vetoed. So we don't get a third juvenile court judge in Douglas County, Nebraska, even though the caseload