

SPEAKER NICHOL: We are discussing the Abboud amendment to the Vard Johnson amendment. May I please introduce some guests in our south balcony today. Senator Hefner has 17 seniors from Coleridge, Nebraska with their teacher. Will you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us. I understood you had a pretty good football team up there this year. Thank you. Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, agree with Senator Landis that I am not concerned with the ego of any judges, but not five minutes ago I talked with the juvenile court judge and I said do you also speak for Judge Moylan? She said, yes, and the county attorneys and the public defenders. Now in Douglas County, many of our juveniles are defended by the public defenders because they are indigents. I do not see anybody's ego having anything to do with this. We have a juvenile court system because juveniles should be treated differently. Bringing in a county judge who hasn't regularly been dealing with these same children as our juvenile court has is not fair to those children. I cannot understand the reasoning if the county attorney says they don't want county judges in juvenile court, if the public defenders in Douglas County say, no, and the juvenile judges don't, then why should we cram it down their throat just because certain senators here believe they want to do it. Everyone here must know of my concern about children since I was the one that started the Child Protection Pornography Act. If I thought for one minute that children would be hurt by not passing this amendment, I certainly would change my mind but I, too, believe that those judges who have the most experience in dealing with juveniles should be the ones, permanently. Now if you want to take a county judge and permanently make them a juvenile court judge so they gain the experience and the knowledge and they follow these children through the courts, then I would concede that but this is a temporary thing that once in awhile if they get behind, if the caseload gets behind, I guess the juvenile court judges are willing to live with it. I personally know both of these judges and I know that they do take these caseloads home with them at night and work on them. They are trying to do the best they can. And, remember, the county attorneys are the ones very often that decide in capital cases whether or not a juvenile will be tried in juvenile court or regular court and yet they, too, are opposed to this. So in the interest of the children, I