

here minutes ago that we are denying justice from young people by making them wait until the trained juvenile judge has the time to deal with them. I don't know as we are dealing...we are doing justice to these juveniles by processing them more quickly through a judge who is not trained in this juvenile justice system. True, this is an amendment that deals with Douglas County. It is an attempt to deal with the overload problem in Douglas County. I am afraid though that the question is larger. I think Senator Abboud has framed this question rightly that this is a larger question and if we pass this amendment, we have taken one more chip against the juvenile justice system and, basically, we are not only locking in only three counties that have juvenile justice systems, we are locking in only five judges in perpetuity that will ever deal with juvenile cases. I think we ought to take our time on this and not rush into supporting this amendment. I think we need to step back and take a look at what the juvenile justice system is all about. I urge you to reject the Johnson amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Hoagland, please. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, you may close on your amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the first thing I wish to do to my colleagues is to apologize. I want to tell you how sorry I am to take your time on an issue that only touches three of the 93 counties. It touches Douglas County, it touches Lancaster County and it touches Sarpy County. This is not an issue under our current structure of statewide proportion. It is an issue for three counties. The second point I wish to make after my apology for taking so much time on this issue is this. There have been some speakers who have suggested that what I am attempting to do for this amendment in some way will be harmful to children. Now those of you who have known me for eight years in this Legislature know my record on children's issues. You know my activities on Medicaid benefits for children. You know