

my activities for child care. You know my support of abuse legislation. You know that I at no time have ever taken a position consciously that in any way, shape or form would have an adverse impact on children. In fact, every action I have taken in this Legislature has been deliberately designed to be of benefit to children because I really care about children. You also know I have been a lawyer for 22 years and as a lawyer have practiced in the juvenile court, the county court, the district court, the Supreme Court, federal courts, and I am talking from experience. You have had a chart passed out to you from our juvenile court system in Douglas County designed to show the caseload. The chart was a justification for a third judge in Douglas County. Look at the chart. Does it not make the point? The point is that there are children today caught up in a world of long protracted proceedings and hearings because there are two judges in Douglas County in the juvenile court. Justice delayed is justice denied. This amendment that I am offering to you simply assigns, in accordance with the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, a county judge to assist in the reduction of the caseload on an as-needed basis. This amendment is designed to enhance, to enhance the treatment of children, not to deprecate it, to enhance the treatment of children. Now, I talked about the three counties that have a separate juvenile court system. What about the 90 counties that do not have separate juvenile court systems? In your 90 counties, my friends and colleagues, you have county judges. They wear the same black robes as are worn in Douglas and Lancaster and Sarpy County acting as juvenile court judges. Not only do they do adoptions and guardianships and probates and criminal cases and civil cases involving \$10,000 or less, but in addition they do juvenile court cases. Is there something that disqualifies those men and those women from so acting? I think not. Is there any reason why one of those county judges could not be assigned on a temporary basis to the juvenile court in Douglas County to engage in the same decision making responsibilities that that person would engage in if that person was in Knox County or if that person was in Antelope County or some other county? I think not. I think not. All I am doing is simply saying, treat the overload by allowing temporary assignments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.