

of other members in this body, that there is a need for a third juvenile court judge to be needed in Douglas County. Now, I had contemplated and was going to offer an amendment to LB 516 to provide for the third juvenile court judge for Douglas County and to attach it to LB 516, but at this particular time I think that the juvenile court judge issue is going to be heard on Special Order so we will be discussing whether there should be an additional third juvenile court judge in Douglas County at a later time, possibly next week or whenever it can be arranged on the agenda. So at this time there will be no amendment offered for a third juvenile court judge in Douglas County on LB 516 but I feel that there should be a sunset provision for the use of county court judges, but, more importantly, if we do get the third judge and it does reduce the amount of caseload or backlog that is occurring at the present time in Douglas County, then since there is no need for that additional county court judge, it should not be allowed to occur. With that, I urge the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President and members of the body, if you recall the debate on 516 on Select File, Senators Johnson and Hoagland had an amendment adopted to this bill which dealt with the current staffing problems in the juvenile court in Douglas County. What they did is they suggested that the power be given to appoint a county judge to serve in the juvenile court system because of the shortage that exists. Senator Abboud and I and some others objected to that as a back door sort of, and Senator Chizek also objected to that, as kind of a back door attempt to do away with ever adopting an additional juvenile judge in the county. What we are proposing here today is kind of a compromise proposal and that is that we recognize the staffing realities in Douglas County today and recognize that there will be a need for some sort of temporary solution to the juvenile court problem. My preference still is that it not be temporary, that we do get the bill passed to add an additional juvenile court judge yet this session, but if we don't, we recognize that that staffing problem will exist and that we do need this temporary solution. What we are saying with this amendment is assuring that it will be a temporary solution, and not a back door permanent change in the manner in which we deal with juvenile court justice. What we want to do is say that as soon as that